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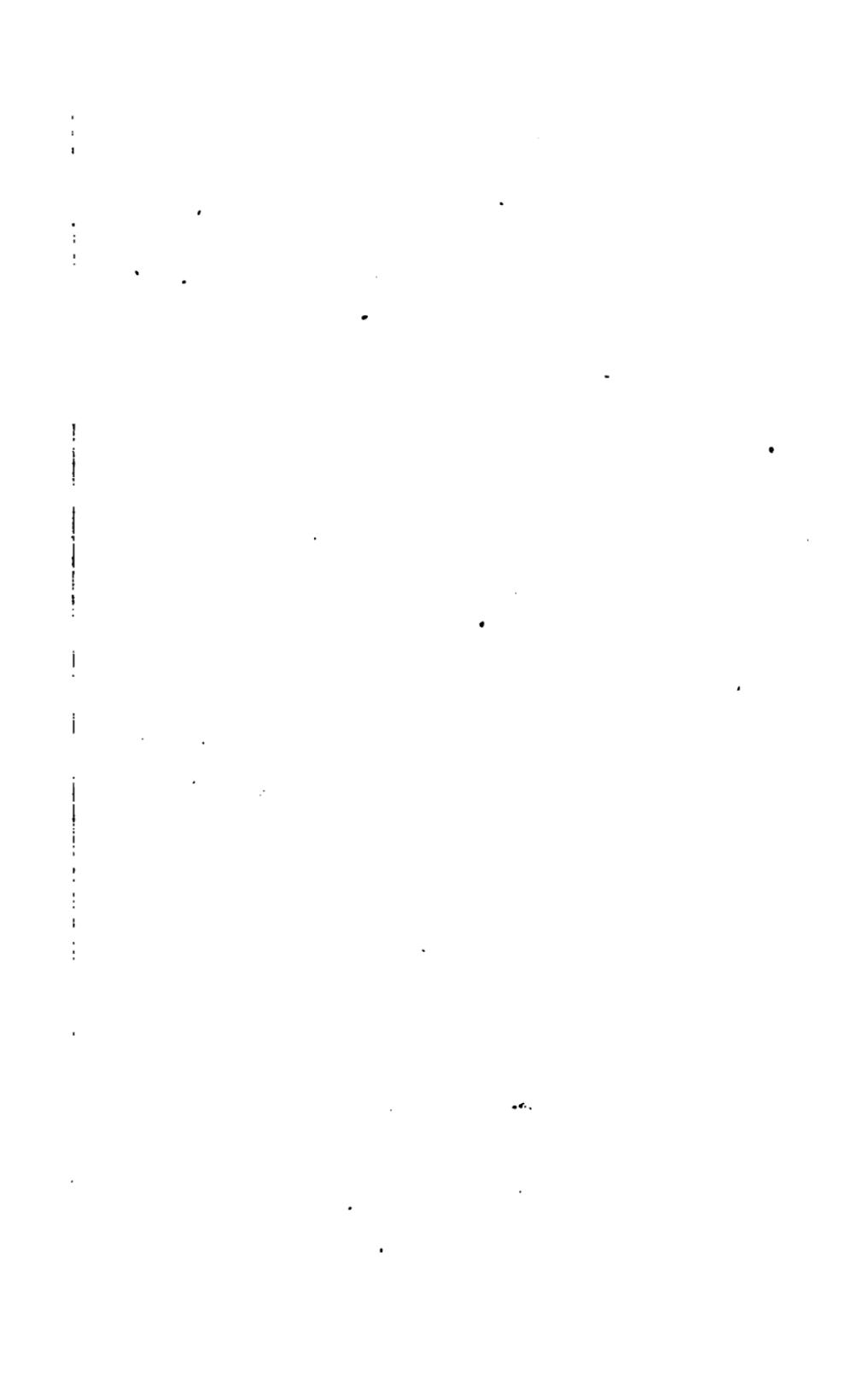




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ROUND AND ROUND,

AND

IN THE WORLD.

BY

JAMES RATTRAY.



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ROUND AND ROUND,

AND

IN THE WORLD.

PREAMBLE.

I EXPLAIN that I mean by the title I am giving to these papers, that a person may have been round and round and athwart the globe, and not be able to say truly that he has been in those parts of the world over which he has travelled; and that he may have lived a considerable time in distant parts without having learned much about them: just as many do at home, who, although living in the midst of opportunities of acquiring useful knowledge, and being useful in their time, remain comparatively ignorant of the most interesting features of the places of their nativity.

As my desire in writing is, that I may perform a duty which every one who has seen the world in many of its aspects owes to the more youthful and inexperienced of his neighbours, I will endeavour to make my narrative as interesting to them as I possibly can; and if they follow me with a little patience, they may



learn that the deplorable disappointments and failures to which many a young launcher in life has been doomed, are attributable to misdirection, and, too often, to the seductions which unprincipled and callous-hearted speculators employ to allure them—heedless of the consequences to families, individuals, or associations.

What to do with a growing-up family—to what profession, trade, business, or calling they should or can be put—is to all thoughtful parents a subject of prime solicitude. The inducements to emigrate which the multiplying fields of industry abroad, and the increasing facilities for reaching them present, are (though sufficiently attractive, in the main, to justify reasonable expectations of acquiring degrees of competence and wealth), to the more ardent and unreflecting, temptations to abandon well-to-do positions and the prospect of that advancement in the world which industry, frugality, and patience, seldom fail to secure, too powerful to be resisted; and thus it is that the “news from the far country” which reach friends and relations, respecting the success of those of whom hopeful expectations were indulged, are oftener than should be of a sombre tinge; not necessarily from any unwonted lack of those personal qualities which, under more carefully considered circumstances, would have been attended with better results, but mainly from not being more thoroughly furnished with that special information respecting the actual condition and resources of the regions they intend proceeding to, required before embarking on the enterprise.

The confidence and self-reliance which familiarity with the constitution, laws, and institutions of their native country, as well as of those of the countries of

their intended adoption, inspires, are essential to success in every walk; and which may be acquired, in addition to reading, by associations which afford opportunities of observation and of acquiring some knowledge of the influence which these laws and institutions exert, and of the ways of men and society; without which, and in this sense, and for some of the higher purposes of their being, young men, wherever they may be, can hardly be said to be *in the world*.

To whatever causes it may be attributable, there can be but little doubt that, within the last thirty years, the general condition of by far the greater portion of the inhabitants of the United Kingdom has been greatly improved. To those whose experience enables them to institute comparisons between the present domestic and outward condition of the various classes of which society is composed, and what it was previous to the time quoted, that improvement will be pronounced decided in all that pertains to general social elevation; and notwithstanding the various adverse influences which have from time to time interrupted its progress, the foundations upon which it is based are, in the main, sound, and intelligently understood. The sources and causes of the wealth of nations may be accurately enough defined, but it is not so easy a matter to determine by what agencies the prevailing intelligence of the industrious classes has been attained. To attribute it merely to elementary or scholastic training would be incorrect; for in respect to the artizan and labouring class, although the means of acquiring these are more abundant than formerly, the opportunities of availing themselves of them are not correspondingly convenient. The increased respect in which law, order,

property, and society, in all its relations is held, has not been fostered so much in schools, as from the particular character of the schooling received. There have been several epochs within the memory of men, to which may be attributed the present enlightened condition of the industrious orders of society, and in which may be included all whose time, talent, and physical and mental energies are devoted to the advancement of the commonwealth. Dating from the period of the Reform Bill agitation, when the late Earl Grey was premier, it will, on reflection, be found that the resistance made to the demands of the people originated and sustained organizations which, from the very nature of their operations, were the means of instructing, enlightening, and rendering amenable to discipline, multitudes who, but for the organized opposition they encountered, might have remained unconscious of the secret of their power, and of the rights and privileges which monopolists so infatuatedly withheld. The popular blazonry held aloft on banners and streaming from house-tops, and proclaimed from press and platform, that "right was might," and that "knowledge was power," stirred the hitherto inert mass to its depths, and sent throughout the ranks of labour a flood of light, and knowledge, and truth, which opened the popular mind, and gave it an impulse in the direction of general intelligence, whose momentum is felt, and will be, until all, from the least to the greatest, know the advantages which enlightened citizenship confers, and feel the responsibilities which it entails; and in like manner it may be said, that apart from, and in addition to, the usual ordained means of religious and moral improvement, which more than hitherto abound, there have been

special occasions when appeals to the conscience and to the *heart* of society have come home with a directness and a power which the usual instrumentalities might have failed to effect—occasions when the mental condition and the affections of myriads placed far beyond the influences of religious associations, have been awakened and revealed in a manner which affords the most gratifying assurance that there are latent in the bosoms of the most unlikely mould the germs of a more refined nature, and of a far higher being than their uncultured condition would promise.

The year 1851 and a few years following, afforded such an occasion. The embarrassment and enduring privations consequent on the stagnation in trade which prevailed during several years preceding these, were such as to cause a very general belief that, after all, it was doubtful if the principle of free trade initiated by Sir Robert Peel in 1842, and followed by the repeal of the corn laws in 1846, would not fail in accomplishing the ameliorations which its chief promoters predicted; years which gave birth to the latest revolution in France, and its continental concomitants; accompanied by failure in the cereal crops of Europe generally, aggravating the prevailing distress to an extent which caused stout hearts to faint and fail; when a sudden sound, wafted from the antipodes, dissipated the commercial gloom, affording promise that trade, which was languishing and failing from the insufficiency of the metallic currency and other sound equivalents, would be relieved and expanded by the influx of gold, which the authentic reports of the discovery of large auriferous tracts in accessible regions of Australia would furnish. It had been proved that

some of the "patches" of Port Philip were yielding marvellous returns of the precious metal. The splendours of Ophir and Bathurst in New South Wales, discovered by the sagacity, faith, and perseverance of Mr. Hargreaves, were being eclipsed by the glories of Mount Alexander, Bendigo, and Ballarat; and although just at the same time there was sent from Adelaide, and exhibited in the Crystal Palace, Hyde Park, the finest wheat in the world, which, with the wool and copper of the same colony, promised to open up for South Australia a path to the very pinnacle of material prosperity, the wool and the gold of Victoria were seductive enough to divert the streams of emigration from Europe and America to her own shores. Then it was (1852) that society commenced heaving with excitement and unwonted commotion. The desire to escape from over-crowded labour markets was stronger than the feelings of fear and uncertainty of the passage could inspire; and although few calculated on less than three or four months' sailing over seas hitherto not commonly traversed, and before the more safe and speedy era of "Black Ball Liners," "Great Britains," and "Overland Routes" was inaugurated, the rush to brave the perils of the deep, the hazard of the venture, and the chances of fortune, assumed the features and magnitude of a mania; and would have swelled into greater proportions if the cost had not presented an obstacle to all but those who, from their own resources or those of willing friends, could afford to embark. A system of emigration had, it is true, been going on for years and generations to Canada and the United States of America; but the distance being comparatively short, and the intercourse familiar and regular, did not produce the same effect on

the *hearts* of separating friends, who parted under the impression and well-grounded belief of a speedy reunion: but far different was the spectacle which the farewell salutations of the precursors to the comparatively unknown regions of Australia, and the relatives and friends they were leaving behind, presented. They generally bade adieu as if for life; and the appeal thus made to the affections and whole moral being of all concerned, revived the slumbering feelings, and produced impressions of the most tender and enduring nature, bringing up vividly the mutual well-dones and evildones of life with a force which less affecting circumstances could not effect.

The writer, from considerations of health, and no doubt influenced by a desire to improve his temporal condition, and by a wish to escape from the irksomeness which a too close confinement to a well-enough-to-do counter induced, resolved to embark for "the distant Aidenn," which he did at the latter end of 1852; and now proposes to review some of the most notable incidents of his peregrinations up to 1867, and which in this case, from the "dangers that befel," will commence with

THE PASSAGE OUT TO MELBOURNE.

The appalling and tragical misfortunes which are so very frequently occurring at sea, it might be supposed would cause the most searching investigations to be made respecting the preventible causes of the foundering of so many preciously-freighted steamships; and sanguine hopes may now be entertained that, under the vigilant and conscientious auspices of the present chiefs (Messrs. Bright and Childers) of the Boards of Trade

and Admiralty, this important matter will receive at their hands that consideration which the interests of commerce and humanity demand.

I am quite aware of the prevailing disposition, when people have been exposed to danger, of awarding credit and *eclat* to some objects of sympathy, which the circumstances of the case do not warrant. If a skipper stands by his charge and performs his duty, while exposed to danger and death, rather than abandon the passengers and seamen in moments of peril, applause and reward are the meed of his heroic devotion. If, to rescue from impending doom a company of stranded mariners, the cry to "man the life-boat" be responded to with bounding alacrity by a crew of gallant men, who, like a forlorn hope, breast the fury of the raging main, and suffer mishap while saving the lives of the hapless castaways, they are entitled to the commendations which the admiring spectators of their humane prowess bestow. And so it is in all cases where disasters ensue from courageous acts voluntarily performed. Sympathy is the claim which misfortune, under any circumstances, has upon mankind; but it does not follow that misfortune in itself is a meritorious condition to be placed in. To those who are familiar with the cruel captivity of Baron Trenck and of Cervantes, the illustrious author of "Don Quixote," the victims, although equally the objects of commiseration and pity, do not command the same degree of admiration. And thus, recently, when an attempt was being made to lionize the unfortunate victims of the more unfortunate savage of Magdala, a leading London newspaper warned the promoters of their mistake in supposing that the people and the press of this country

would not discriminate between what constituted heroism and mere misfortune. The fireside stories which passengers sometimes tell of the awful storms they encountered, and which nearly ended in shipwreck, and which the captain said was *about* the greatest gale he had ever been out in (after it was over), often secure for the reciters the sympathy and admiration of their auditors, who receive the consideration of merit where none is due. Danger faced and duty heroically done in the performance of noble and patriotic acts, whether the actors fail, fall, or succeed in the enterprise, command the thanks and the solicitude of the thoughtful; but where danger and disaster overtake a person in the pursuit of a self-seeking though laudable object, his unfortunate plight may fairly entitle him to the sympathy of friends, but not to meritorious comment. Such being the case of the writer, he may be allowed, for the sake of warning to others, to tell his tale without being accused of spinning a yarn, with the view of filching a share of that approbation which is but too scantily bestowed on its deserving objects.

After having fully resolved to go, and "taken steps," I sagaciously, as I thought—rasping the old saw that time was money, which would be a good thing for many if it was—disdained the slow-coach style of your crawling sail-ships, and boldly took a berth in a crack new steamer, which was to be one of a fleet in which a newly-fledged company were preparing to convey her Majesty's mails and lieges to and from the antipodes. I secured my passage through the agency of a friend in London, and was, soon after this transaction, proud to find a beautiful engraving of this grand monster of the deep, in an illustrated London paper, cleaving the waves

and contemptuously throwing aside the spray as if it were a very little thing; with a fine lot of passengers—myself among the number, no doubt—bending over the rails of the quarter-deck in a style of ease and comfort which brought up feelings of pity for some friends who had taken their passages in a tub! moored in the Firth of Clyde. I had invested in several kinds of merchandise, and took them and myself to London to be shipped as per agreement; but I soon found that the grand ship upon which I had gazed with great respect and pride in the illustrated metropolitan, was still in the hands of carpenters, riggers, caulkers, painters, engineers, lumpers, loafers, and other inevitable attendance; and that although the time announced for sailing had been postponed again and again, she would not be finished for a considerable time; the affair in the London paper being merely a quack advertisement, which, I believe, is often practised on terms favourable to the proprietors of such picturesque mediums of useful knowledge. The *Times* gave prominence to a letter from the friend who had taken out my passage, exposing the whole matter in a style which would have damaged any other company but one having an Under-secretary of State's brother as chairman. She—the *Adelaide*—was ordered round to Plymouth with her freight of mechanics at work, where she arrived in a queer condition after a tussle in the Downs with a December blast of the usual sort, which upset everything on board—not excepting the stomachs of many who had not counted the cost of a rough ride down the Channel.

As the voyage which ensued was one of the most perilous and protracted of any which had been made for many a day, I will relate as succinctly as the run-

ning style of these papers will admit of, the leading incidents connected with it, and the causes to which the mishaps may be fairly attributed, mainly with the view of warning intending passengers of the absolute necessity of taking all precautionary measures to ascertain the sea-worthiness of the vessels they intend embarking in, before risking their lives to the chances to which the slightest accident may expose them, from the criminal condition in which many a well-spoken-of ship is sent to sea.

The "*Dangerous*" was the first of a fleet of steamers contracted for to be built by an eminent London builder, for a company formed under the auspices of the brother of the then Under-secretary of War. There was great competition to obtain the contract for the mails with its swinging subsidy, but the backstairs influence succeeded, and the owners of the "*Dangerous*" would have had the ball at their feet if they had been possessed of a fleet suitable for the purpose. But they had not a single ship when the contract was signed, and the consequent entire history of the ill-starred job was a series of blundering misadventures. Nearly three weeks elapsed after reaching Plymouth before we finally put to sea; which was attended with much inconvenience and great expense, but which was a mere trifle to what was afterwards endured. The mails were on board during the entire detention, with an unusual amount of specie (of which the colony of Victoria stood in much need), and one of the most valuable cargoes of merchandise which had been shipped for any destination for many a day previous.

We at last weighed and put to sea, and found after two days' sailing that the ship would not steer, and

with evident difficulty and great danger "bouted," and just managed to reach the Sound in time to escape a violent gale, which, if it had caught us at the outside, would have played havoc, as it did with more than one fine vessel and their crews outside the breakwater. It was found that the helm was unsuitable, and had to be taken out and remodelled. The coal and cargo had to be unshipped to enable the contractors to finish their work; during this time it came out that the captain had resigned, and a meeting of passengers was called to pass a resolution that they would not sail without him, and they knew nothing about him. I protested that we should neither sail with him nor any other commander, until we had ascertained from the highest authority that the ship was sea-worthy. I was overruled, which many afterwards bitterly regretted. The owners and builder had their satraps there to quash any attempt at inquisitiveness, and we were pushed away at last, and at the very time when a diver in his impervious panoply and goggle-eyed helmet had just been raised up from his suspended position in the sea, hammering away at the fastenings of the rudder under the water. I overheard the builder, who had just arrived by express from London, order the captain to get away under any circumstances, as the post-office authorities had threatened to remove the mails and break the contract, if they were not despatched instanter. Under what influence he complied one can only surmise; but to whatever temptations the skipper was open, the Admiralty officer on board, in charge of the mails, should surely have known his duty better. We started with ominous forebodings, passed the breakwater and made for the Eddystone Lighthouse, and circumnavigated that famous pillar

close enough to throw a penny-piece on its basement, heading and turning, to prove the rudder; and all things being pronounced very good, we headed to our course, and not long after clearing the land encountered a coast gale which carried away a life-boat and sent the ship capering in a style which cleared the deck of nearly all the passengers—who were more select than numerous, in consequence of the high rate of fares—to endure their sufferings below. Being in some measure inured to this state of things, I was not attacked in the usual way, and was able to remain on deck watching the performances of the ship, about which there were painful misgivings; but she pushed on amid the wailings of the storm, and of the sorely afflicted passengers, until we reached the Bay of Biscay, when in the howling of the tempest we were startled out of our beds and our senses by official intimation that the ship was on fire, and then, what a scene! It was pitch dark, and the "*Dangerous*" was dancing like a fanatic at a fair. The coals, which had been unshipped to enable the mechanics to get to their work, had been exposed to the snow and rain on the piers at Devonport, and were again shipped in a wet condition, and in the heated coal bunks soon generated gas enough to produce spontaneous combustion; sending forth smoke enough to justify the worst apprehensions.

The fire commenced on the morning of Thursday, and continued until the evening of Sabbath following, during which some incidents occurred which, but for the serious aspect of affairs, would have created uproarious mirth. Although I did not fare worse than some of my neighbours, I was in some ludicrous positions at times. When the alarm was given, all was in a state of dark-

ness. Some person in the hurry and confusion had either put out or taken away the only saloon lamp which had been left for the night, and in the scramble for habiliments in our cabin I got supplied with one boot, minus stockings, a pair of trousers, my own luckily, but neither coat nor waistcoat. I had, however, appropriated a greatcoat, the property of a tall neighbour, which covered me from head to heels; and a sailor's hat, which, having not been made for my head, lay on the top of it until we reached the top of the stair, when it was *non est* at once. We were detained on the stair, going up, from the stopping of a man who had dislocated his ankle; and all being dark and wild above, we did not know our way to the pumps, to which we were implored to go. In navigating my course to one of them, following hard (groping) in the wake of a midshipman whom I knew, I was brought to grief by a rude saline visitation levelling me down to the deck. This was a green sea, which means the water in volume without being broken on the bulwarks outside, and from the surging of which over and about me I had some difficulty in levelling up; but had done so high enough to get hold of a belaying pin before my precursor the midshipman, who was overwhelmed by the same deluge, had time to implore me for any one's sake but his own to lay hold, little knowing that I had, and was doing so grimly. After arriving at the pumps we found them choked—not the pumps, but the confined hole they were wrought in, crammed full by eager panting people. By dint of pumping and playing the hose on the heated, smouldering coal-holds, the combustion was subdued, and the "*Dangerous*" sailed away stupidly and blindly on to other afflictions, which do not come in place here.

To make amends in some measure for the misery and anxiety of the preceding days, the captain (as the weather in the warm latitudes we were approaching was clearing finely up) intimated that he would pass as close to the Canary Islands and Teneriffe as the ship could safely approach, by way of a treat; and thus we had the pleasure, after pain, of threading the refuge of the swallows from the inhospitable straits to which the rigour of our winters would subject them, and sailing in close to Santa Cruz, which lies snugly ensconced at the base of Teneriffe, whose sky-rack Peak, hoary with the snows of ages, reminds us of that of Derbyshire which, from being the haunt and home of the bold cavalier "Peveril," has become famous in story. This was enjoyed by all on board, and we were just beginning to think that, after all, the doubts we had entertained of the fitness of the officers for the work they had undertaken were unreasonable, when our confidence in their seamanship was rudely disturbed on finding that the "*Dangerous*" was brought right up, and almost bump on, to the island of St. Antonio, which the captain thought had been a cloud; which caused one of us at least to think that the only cloudy region about was that situated above and between the skipper's own shoulders. We lay under the shade of the island until dawn, when the ship, with her discontented crew and fretting passengers, crossed over, six or eight miles, to St. Vincent, Cape Verdes, where we remained three weeks in the small bay, waiting for coals from Cardiff, which this precious Royal Mail Company should have had waiting for us. To be a mercantile station St. Vincent is certainly, with the exception of Ascension, one of the most sterile spots it is possible for

sea-farers to visit. The only advantage it offers is its bay, which is crescent-form, and sheltered from the main land by Cape Verde and the surrounding jagged volcanic peaks and hills; while St. Antonio stands out in front occupying the position of a formidable break-water. There had no rain fallen for three years previous to our visit. The only verdant spot about is on the top of Cape Verde, on which there is a farm with considerable patches of cultivation. The absence of rain is compensated for in some degree by the condensation of the copious dews which the summit evolves. The dairy produce, which is poor and stinted, is supplied by a few goats and cows. One of the latter, and a few of the goats, were purchased and brought on board for use. The cow was speedily slaughtered, and from its attenuated scraggy condition was, after well meant attempts to devour it in the usual way, thrown overboard in shameful proportions, piecemeal, but which were not altogether lost, as they became food for the sharks which were lounging and loafing about, who snapped up the morsels; but I should not say snapped, as that supposes smartness. But if one may judge of the general agility of the tribe, when appropriating their prey, from the style in which we saw one monster tackle about a bucketful of offal, a deft diver with a well-tempered Sheffield blade would have a good chance in a fair encounter with any one of them who had previously dined. The offal consisted of the intestines of the slaughtered animal referred to, and being light, floated high on the water, which made the feat of grabbing it more difficult. It made three sluggish attempts to seize it, not by turning on its back, as under ordinary circumstances they do when

sucking their meal into their maw while devouring it. It raised its head up until its awkwardly situated mouth came on a level with the coveted liver and lungs, before they disappeared into the belly of the great fish. They are a dangerous tribe, and deserve a wide berth; and for this reason there is very little bathing in the bay, although, when taking a solitary stroll on the sandy shore, I saw a sad memorial of the incautiousness of one adventurous youth. There is fixed in the sand, in the bosom of the shore, a small timber slab with a supercription recording that there lie the remains of Henry Houldsworth, aged nineteen, a native of Glasgow, drowned while bathing in the bay. The unfortunate young gentleman had been, at the time of his death, an officer on board one of her Majesty's African coast fleet.

The Cape Verdes are an appendage of the crown of Portugal, and, like all her outlying dependencies, are managed in the most thriftless manner. Although the native population (coloured) are in the meanest condition of poverty, the import duties on the necessities of life amount to almost entire prohibition, which encourages smuggling, peculation, and all their blasting concomitants; and we were glad when, by obtaining some assistance from the coal depôts of the West India Mail Company, we at last found ourselves on the more hospitable footing of

ST. HELENA,

towards which we turned aside instead of proceeding direct to the Cape of Good Hope, which should have been our next port, but which our commander was afraid he could not make for lack of fuel. But there were other reasons than this. "The *Dangerous*" was

leaking dangerously; in addition to which, the bearings of the engines were so hot as to be no longer in a safe condition to work; and one evening, without warning, the steam-escape valves were opened, when a sudden roar announced to the panic-stricken passengers that something serious was amiss; and when we saw the hose laid on to cool the bearings, thoughts of the ill-fated *Amazon*, whose awful destruction had but very recently occurred, came vividly and painfully uppermost. But our more fortunate, though as ill-prepared steamer, kept crawling along with what canvas she could offer to the cat's-paws of wind which fanned her. When she had made as much dead-reckoning as should have made us sight St. Helena, it was found that the compasses were deranged, if they had ever been otherwise, which is to this day questionable. We were quite at sea, and could not tell in the finest of weather where we were, and were two days in search of the famous island before hailing it, which we did not do without having offered similar honours to several clouds resting on the dip of the horizon, which looked very like St. Helenas. No sooner had we cast anchor, in fifteen fathoms, than we were boarded by all sorts of business folks, the most welcome being the washer-women, and vegetable and fruit people. A very ludicrous appearance was presented by the gents. on shore wearing black hats—bell-toppers. We had never seen a regular four-and-nine since leaving Devonport—all on board being stowed away and replaced by more tolerable and appropriate head-gear. We arrived on a Sabbath afternoon, and not knowing how long we might remain here, I with others got ashore, and went to the evening service in the church (Episcopalian),

and felt out of place on finding that, in an Established Church of a British dependency, the people of colour in it, who form a considerable moiety of the inhabitants, were sitting apart from their paler brothers and sisters of the congregation. A walk through the principal streets and thoroughfares of the place (James Town) afforded pleasing evidence that the Sabbath was remembered and observed as a day of rest from all such worldly employments and recreations as are lawful on other days of the week; and with the exception of the wine shops, and some others of similar resort, all things were decent and in order. We were soon reminded that we could not saunter about long, as, being a garrison town, the portcullis is down at ten o'clock; and to get aboard ship, under the most favourable circumstances, is no easy matter. The chief landing and embarking place is some steps cut out of the rock, at a small inlet in which the watermen's boats are driven and jammed with the advancing and receding rollers, which are continually breaking in on the island. The perpetual commotion of these billows beating on the rocks, offers a striking contrast to the still-looking and placid monotony of the sea a short distance out. Although there is an undulating motion of the deep, the smooth glassy surface prevents the agitation from being much noticed. But the offing has been at times the scene of great commotion. There is exhibited in some of the windows of the town an engraving of a remarkable irruption of the sea, which took place some time previous to our visit, which is ascribed to volcanic action, similar to the great subterranean explosions which have so very recently taken place in so many of the volcanic regions of the globe, when "through

all their caverns quaked the earth as though its centre shook." Without storm, wind, or warning sound of elemental war, the sea rose *en masse*, and from its sublime altitude rolled in and receded, again and again, in devastating majesty—sweeping, drowning, and submerging in its overwhelming course over all, up the lower streets and byways of the panic-stricken town, leaving a wreck behind, which, to the minds of the surviving inhabitants of this time, the more awful irruptions of the present volcanic era will ominously recall. The pleasing memories connected with my fortnight's sojourn in St. Helena I will always fondly cherish. I found my way to domestic and more extended circles and associations, whose influence for good might be imitated with advantage in more favoured and less isolated communities. A very gratifying circumstance, although not immediately connected with these, occurred one forenoon, when, with a brother of my own, who was also a passenger in the same ship, we were wending our way on foot, toiling and perspiring under a fierce tropical sun, to Longwood. When resting on the brow of a steep ascent overlooking the "Briars," a gentleman on horseback, in the prime and flush of health and manhood, cautiously steering his steed down the devious incline, stopped, and courteously inquired, "If we were passengers by the *Adelaide*?"

"Yes."

"Are you on your way to Longwood?"

"That is our intention, if we are on the right track."

"Will you visit Napoleon's tomb, as well as the house in which he lived?"

"That is our intention;" and he directed us how to find them.

“Where do you come from?”
“Glasgow.”
“Glasgow! I am from the same neighbourhood.”
“Indeed! from what place?”
“Green Hall, Blantyre.”
“Have you resided long on the island?”
“Yes, eleven years,” was his reply.
“I think you are a professional gentleman,” I said inquiringly.

“You think right. I am a doctor;” adding, “I intend returning home soon, and if ever you return to the old country, I will be glad to see you at Green Hall.”

Although I have not availed myself of the kind invitation, the worthy doctor, who is now residing on his estate, will, if he excuses this freedom, know that I have not forgotten his kind invitation. But I had occasion, under distressing circumstances, to wait on the doctor again before leaving the scene of his eleven years' professional practice. A young man, John Hunter, a cabinetmaker from Townhead, Glasgow, when we were detained at St. Vincent, taking advantage of a job at high wages, by exposure to the climate heated his blood to a degree which brought on inflammation of the face, which, from the want of skilful treatment on board, resulted in erysipelas. Finding that our ship doctor neither understood nor seemed to care much about the case, I called on Dr. Moore, who accompanied me to the patient, but only to find that he was too late, and John Hunter breathed his last breath a few hours afterwards; and his remains, which were attended by the bulk of the passengers, rest in the sweet little burying-place in St. Helena—shaded and surrounded by pomegranate, fig, peach, and other tropical fruit trees,

and shrubs, plants, and flowers, whose fragrant odours, even under the sad occasion of our visit, did not fail to produce a grateful sense of the fitness of things, and of the serene loveliness of the consecrated spot.

Some rather remarkable events occurred during our detention, which in a narrative of this kind may be worth noticing. A man of colour, a well-known resident, who had atrociously murdered his paramour, living in a solitary part of the island, was executed, the first for twenty-eight years, in a conspicuous part of James Town, which enabled all who wished to do so to witness it from the ship's deck. A soldier who had gone to the garrison in a state of inebriety, and too late for admission, had, it was thought, intending to sleep, climbed over a wall at a wrong place, and fell down the rugged rocks, on which, about half-way down in its descent, his mutilated corpse was intercepted, which lay nearly the whole of the following day, when, from the impossibility of carrying it up, it had to be tumbled down to the bottom—a pitiable spectacle, which was also witnessed from the ship's deck. A goodly number of us followed the unfortunate soldier's remains to their last home. The head and founder of the Solomon dynasty, the man of greatest note on the island, labouring under an acute disease, was taken for advice and treatment to London, where he died; his body was brought back, while we were there, to the scene of his enterprising and useful career to be buried; many of us also followed in the wake of his funeral pageant, which was a public one. I learned some interesting particulars of Mr. Solomon's eventful, though quiet life. I believe it is admitted that St. Helena is the finest water-supply station in the world for sea-farers, and is regularly

taken advantage of by the homeward-bound vessels from the East; and it is to the late Mr. Solomon, whose eldest son was afterwards appointed governor of the island, that the fleets from the eastern world are supplied with their fresh water, which is the best keeping of any that is to be found at any other accessible place. He was a merchant, and a mechanical genius, and a clever genius in other respects as well. Bonaparte patronized him in the mechanical line, Solomon could repair watches and clocks, and was the only person whom the exile, in this respect, would employ; and somehow the Longwood time-pieces were very often out of sorts, and who but the Hebrew artist would the renowned Corsican engage to rectify the parts? A system of ciphers had been planned between the parties, of a character which enabled the patron and his protégé to maintain a correspondence, in spite of the vigilance of Sir Hudson Lowe, which nearly resulted in a repetition of the feat of Elba. Napoleon inserted his billets, written in the peculiar cipher, in some of the intricate parts of the mechanism of the time-pieces, and the wily artist availed himself of the same character and medium to reply; and thus a correspondence was, it is said, maintained, which, but for the vigilance and integrity of the only remaining sentinel to be passed, might have provoked European conflicts, and given another aspect to the face of the civilized world, and retarded the era of peace, under whose benign aspect, despite of overwhelming oppressive armaments, the nations are preparing to repose. The plot was discovered, and Solomon, with all his judgment and wisdom, very nearly paid the penalty of his daring complicity by banishment from the scene of the remorseless soldier's involuntary detention.

Dr. O'Meara, of all the biographers of Bonaparte, did more to create for his patient a greater amount of sympathy, than any other writer, and which reacted on Sir Hudson Lowe with a force which, with all who have not read more fully and impartially, has rendered his memory odious. But to those who have read Mr. Forsyth's compilation, and who otherwise know the circumstances, and are not blinded by mere glare, the prevailing sentiment is very different. The exaggerated story of having to part with his services of silver plate was quite understood, and believed on the spot, to be a pitiful make-believe for Europe that his allowances to maintain himself and suite were stinted, and inadequate for their domestic requirements; and when because he broke his parole the circuit of his perambulations was judiciously circumscribed, he was still allowed scope enough, in the most pleasant and rural part of the island, for equestrian or any other exercise he might prefer.

The new house, built for his accommodation, although never furnished, was an interesting retreat for him in his more meditative moods. It afforded a full view of the confines of the limited vale in which his mutilated remains were for a season to repose. It is a pleasant solitude, which even the echoes of the thundering bilows chafing the rocks below do not disturb, and verdant with vegetation; while nearly every other volcanic-formed steep in its vicinity appears, in hue and condition, as if the scoria and lava had but recently rained and flowed. We were alone on our visit to the deserted tomb, and thus were favoured with an opportunity of measuring each of our lengths prone on the stone-flag pavement of the narrow house in which the conquered conqueror's body lay; and after appropriating

a few twigs from one of the four willows, which are the growth of cuttings from the two parent weepers, we retired from the valley of humiliation, not unimpressed with a feeling of the vanity of human wishes, to return to our ship, which we did not accomplish without observing some more evidences of the kind of thrift for which its management was distinguished.

The ostensible cause of our visit and detention was want of fuel to raise the steam ; and had it not been for the generosity of the commander of one of her Majesty's African coast cruisers, which had just been coaling at Ascension Island, and to our luck in getting the timbers of a captured slaver, we would have fared badly enough. These, however acceptable, were not sufficient, and our sagacious purveyors had recourse to the expedient of levying tribute on the woodlands of the rock ; but as its steeps and heights are impracticable for wheeled vehicles of burden, the more primitive mode of mountain transport was adopted, and all the available mule and donkey power in the neighbourhood was engaged to carry, pannier-wise, the supply of fuel which, with the contributions already acknowledged, was to steam us to our next port ; and it was on our way down from Longwood that we overtook, in one of the defiles, quite an imposing troop of mules and asses laden with saplings and green logs, the spoils which were to assist us in our queer journey. The load of each beast of burden would not have been too much for the shoulders of any other driver but those of a proverbially lazy, loitering muleteer.

There is an amount of independence and public spirit in James Town, which, considering it is the seat of government and a garrison, and of the distributors of the

patronage of the island, is highly creditable to the parties who practise them, and characteristic of the principles they profess. There is, notwithstanding the presence of a dominant established church, a flourishing congregation of dissenters, who maintain a praiseworthy aggressive attitude, promoting educational institutions, secular and religious, as well as maintaining the distinguishing features of a church without compromising the principles of willinghood on which it is based. I reluctantly bade them and the island farewell, but not without leaving a memorial of our visit by having inserted, in the spiritedly conducted newspaper published there, a letter in which all the honours due to the rare management of the "*Dangerous*" were admitted, and which formed a subject of speculation respecting the authorship on our way to

THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

From the lengthened delay in the anchorage, the daily arrival of homeward-bound ships, and the fouling of chain cables, darkness had overshadowed us with its gloom before the anchor came home, which must have given increased effect to the magnificence of the spectacle which the majestic ship, on her moving away, presented to the friends and other spectators we left behind us. The mule-borne logs having, in order to make them ignite, to be packed in the furnaces with anthracite coal, sent all away in a foam of sparks and live embers, which, issuing from the mouths of the two funnels of the ship, accompanied with the flaming twigs of the resinous saplings driven by the force of the current in the flues, converted the chimney tops into a kind of volcanoes, giving not a very faint notion of what Hecla might be

in a state of activity. The sparks and other meteoric phenomena falling on the tar-seamed planking of the decks, and other exposed inflammable material, was so menacing as to cause recourse to laving them with water, conveyed in buckets by relays of men at the pumps. All this, however, from being quite in accordance with the blundering routine of our navigators, did not alarm us so much as if we had not been used to such things, especially as from the unfailing recurrence of episodes of this nature, it had been found necessary to institute vigilance committees, which, although they did not, nor dared not—any more than a nervous passenger seated on the box dare, at the risk of upsetting the coach, touch the reins or the left hand of the driver, in whose fingers they are placed—interfere with the direction of the ship, were often instrumental in keeping the officers to their duties. But sometimes this supposed vigilance had a pernicious effect too; and as it is said that what is every one's business is no one's in particular, the disaster which attends the condition of things where there is a multiplicity of cooks happened with our tormented and fagged-out steamer. Taking it into her mind to pursue her own course, she, one beautiful night about the middle watch, took rather an erratic one. Despairing of reaching her final port, or perhaps not believing there was such a destination contemplated, she fixed on the most somnolent watch of the night to retreat, and she "bouted" herself, and was sailing homeward-bound, until one of the vigilants, who is an inveterate star-gazer when at sea, noticing that the stellar systems were reversing their wonted positions in the firmament, so as to remind him of the certain fate in which the entire concave would be involved if this, or any other planet, should from its

orbit fly ; but the perfect propriety of the heavens, and the sublime serenity of the atmosphere, brought him to the conclusion that it was the wayward "*Dangerous*," and not the obedient and never-failing stars, that was at fault. Not wishing to incur the risk of being laughed at, he communicated his doubts to a brother vigilant sentinel, who was walking his lonely rounds, but did get laughed at ; but he was right notwithstanding, and the captain, who was in bed, on being informed of the state of matters, found to his astonishment that it was so ; and in the morning had the mate, whose watch it was, brought before him and sentenced to a fortnight's confinement, all which is recorded in the ship's log. The investigation brought out the facts, which were simply what does, or may occur, where there are female passengers who are less careful of their reputation than they ought to be, especially when the officers and doctor of the ship do not prove themselves to be guardians, in the sense which their trusted position imposes. In the case I am noting, the mate and quarter-master were in quarters of the vessel where they ought not to have been ; and the men at the wheel had either been dozing, or were taking advantage of this opportunity to avenge a wrong which the sailors generally conceived the passengers had done them, when on a time of insubordination on the part of the crew we declared ourselves on the side of order ; and this disposition to be avenged was displayed as often as some of them could do so with impunity. On one occasion of my vigilant duty, when standing close by the wheel leaning on the stern capstan, "Jack Grundy" the steersman, gave the ship's side to a convenient wave, which sent her over, down to her rails, with a list which pitched the captain out

of his bed in his state-room situated on the quarter-deck, and alarmed and aroused the sleeping passengers the more effectually by the headlong descent of the dinner hand bell down a flight of stairs, on the top landing of which it had been designedly placed, into the main saloon, on each side of which were ranged the sleeping berths of the sorely vexed occupants; and had it not been that I threw my arms round the waist of the capstan, I would have been pitched overboard by the sudden lurch, and, as it was, I was thrown and rolled down to the scuppers. It would be tedious, and only a repetition of errors committed by those in charge, to dwell on the mishaps during the passage between St. Helena and the Cape, which, after being fifteen days in performing, we reached in a tolerable condition.

The Kaffir war had just ended, and "Seyola," one of the chiefs, was a captive at a place called Wineberg, about eight miles distant from Cape Town. I was anxious to see the man who had been such a trouble and terror to the settlers, and got out on a fine omnibus, drawn by a team of horses whose mountings many a marquis might have coveted, and along one of the pleasantest roads—avenues—studded with trees in finest foliage, I had (excepting Coventry to Kenilworth), ever travelled. On going up to the iron-grated gate of the captive's prison yard, we found him with one of his wives seated on a mattress laid on the clean gravel. He rose and came to the grating, which afforded me an opportunity of shaking hands and presenting him with a cheroot, which he accepted with an obeisance more expressive than any amount of wordy thanks could have been, even if I could have comprehended them.

"Sandilla" the most formidable and indomitable chief

the government had to contend with, was further back in the country, which enabled Seyola, who made his conditional submission to Sir George Cathcart of Crimean celebrity, to do a little marauding on his own account, by which he obtained for himself a reputation for cruelty and treachery, which some of the missionaries blamed the authorities for partly provoking. Portraits of both of these chiefs were in one of the London Illustrated newspapers on board, which afforded evidence of the sort of reliance which may sometimes be placed on the authenticity of these picturesque mediums. The Seyola of the newspaper was got up in the uniform of an African chief, as he might be represented at "Astley's," while the imprisoned personation wore the habiliments of a guerilla; that is, anything the most convenient he could find. His entire outfit consisted of a striped shirt, a pair of dark-blue trousers much too tight and short for the circumference and length of his legs, and a blue military jacket, single-breasted, with one row of gilt buttons, open, because having been taken with his tights from the body of some slain soldier of more diminutive stature than himself, it had to hang loose from his shoulders. These three articles were all that encumbered the captive chief's person, which stood erect about five feet ten inches, well formed, not athletic, small feet, bullet head, with coal black crispy hair, not woolly; round face; and, but for the dark fiery eye, and quick-set hungry-looking teeth, presenting a manly enough person and more civilized contour than his reputed deeds of pillage and blood invested him with. The man on guard informed us, when he saw me giving him my hand, that he knew he would have drawn me through the grating to satiate his hate and

thirst for blood, if he dared; which might have been true, although I saw no great expression of that nature in his civil enough countenance.

Cape Town is a fine, substantial, well-ordered place, clean and healthy, the shops and warehouses roomy and wiselike. The population is composed of moieties of various nations, the English and Dutch predominating; which may account for the personal and domestic cleanliness which prevails. There is a good import and export trade done; Cape wine and wool to a certain extent constitute important items in the latter. The neighbouring colony of Natal promises to make more rapid progress than the older one. Algoa and Simon's Bays are more accessible and safe refuges for shipping than Table Bay, which will be detrimental to the trade with the interior which the latter used solely to command. But to return to our ship and what concerns us most: on reaching the shore we could not get aboard. A wind was coming down from the interior, of such force, that when pressed in the gut between Table Mount and the neighbouring hills, it became irresistible, and the poor "*Dangerous*" was doing doubtful battle with the powerful hurricane, straining and groaning with both anchors out and every foot of chain to spare. She, however, rode it out, and having taken aboard a supply of coal which filled every bunk, and loaded the decks to a degree which nothing but mad recklessness can account for, started on

ONE OF THE MOST PERILOUS VOYAGES

which ever ignorance and incompetence weathered; rendered top-heavy by the stowing of the upper decks with coal; leaking at her stern plates in a manner which

baffled all efforts to stop it; encountering weather which would have tried a well-trimmed ship, with the water gaining until it reached the alarming height of ten feet in the after compartments; the captain despairing of reaching land, which at the nearest available point was two thousand miles at the time of our greatest extremity; a mutinous crew, from fear of whom the contents of the armoury had to be removed; an incompetent set of officers (excepting one), engineers, and subordinates, in whose efficiency all confidence had long since been abandoned; bilge pumps choked with the coal dross and other debris; passengers and crew pumping for five weeks, keeping down leakage forward which the donkey engines could not reach; water pouring in at the screw shaft as thick as the diameter of the shaft pipe, and the fan itself threatening to become disengaged from its connection; sometimes in a storm careering before the wind, preferring to leave our due course rather than run the risk of broaching in any attempt to lay to. On a Saturday evening, when everything seemed to be wrong, and the climax upon us, ominous whispers were going the round that the head carpenter had stripped and was down deep in the water, endeavouring to reach the leaking parts. We anxiously watched when he would come up, so that we might learn the worst and the best, if there was a best. I thought I might get at the true condition of things if I "spliced the main brace," and so as soon as he emerged on deck, I made up to him and intimated my intention of warming him with something good for him under the circumstances; and suggested that if he would sit down on a spar which I pointed to, until I returned from the bar, it would be all quiet; to which proposition "James"

readily assented. I with difficulty found my way to the desired fountain, and found much more hazard in making my way back; the hazard consisting in the circumstance that when I went away I was empty-handed, and could hold on by anything I could find, but when returning I had a charge on my hands which required careful nursing, not to speak of sundry bumps and thumps, which, if I had been labelled *Glass, with care*, would not have guaranteed the bearer to be kept any side upwards; and there was particular danger in being waylaid, as some of my messmates were known to be prowling about the vicinity of my benevolent excursion, whose visits to the bar had of late been so frequent as seriously to affect their credit at that exchange. They had seen me entering and saw how I had fared, and when I left they took to the scent and followed in my wake. And when I seated myself beside "James" they found a berth unseen, not far away; but they found to their disgust that there is many a slip between the cup and the lip. After beheading the tender object of my care, I handed it to the carpenter with a recommendation not to be afraid of it, which he showed he was not by placing the neck of the utensil to his mouth, and holding it in a horizontal position appeared as if he was trying to fathom it, during which operation I ventured to inquire what he thought of the state of things now; to which, handing me back what I thought might have contained enough for some friend in need, he replied, sobbing, that he had been a great sinner; which retrospective reference to his manner of life, implying as it did that it was on the eve of closing, went to my heart like the point of a poniard. What! the head carpenter despairing? and when he added, "and

I have a big family," I felt squeamish. But when I saw in what condition he had left the "Cardigan,"—"Great sinner," thought I, "so I think you are;" and performing something like the same act of transgression, I confessed that "so was I." After some time spent in expressions of mutual condolence, "James" went off to some other quarter where he might have an opportunity of repeating the offence which had wrung from him the confession of his iniquities. Our doleful dialogue was overheard and remembered when any one wanted to know who were the greatest sinners in the "*Dangerous*." If "James" had not been an honest-hearted man I would have concluded that his confession was an excuse for the depth which he had gone into the Schiedam. But he was in earnest; the matter appeared after full examination to be hopeless. But bad as matters were, the sailors had an interest in making them appear no better. They wished to have an excuse for leaving the ship for the diggings, and the most of them had shipped with that intention, although they had signed articles for the run out and back; and they often appeared to be despairing of reaching land, which aggravated the distress of many who rather required soothing assurances of safety. When the weather was "dirty" they were sure to whisper into some more than ordinary credulous ear, that the glass was falling rapidly, and that the ship was unable to weather the coming storm; and their malevolent predictions appeared at one time to be approaching realization, amid the huge billows which usually roll in the great stretch of ocean which separates the Cape of Good Hope from Cape Leuin at the extreme south-west point of the Australian continent. A full gale, not one of the spicy ones from Araby the Blest, which Milton describes

as blowing down the Mozambique Channel, at which we were, but a tornado, which vexed the sea and roused its fury to a pitch we had never before witnessed. The spiteful boatswain being ordered to pipe all hands during one of the watches of the night, to frighten the wakeful passengers roared hoarsely down the companion, "All hands on deck, not a soul saved." The effect was most distressing to witness. The protracted tension of the nerves of many had become relaxed, and intimations of this kind increased this tendency. When morning dawned the storm had lulled, but the sea was heaving and rolling on in wondrous majesty. But the spectacle though grand to look upon, was beheld with feelings of alarm, and distrust in the fitness of the ship to breast and ride the mountainous billows in which we were now labouring; and far, far away, as far as the distant horizon, we would now and then descry one or two at a time towering above all the others, and approaching solemnly as if on some marvellous mission. Two of these in particular will never be forgotten by any who tremulously watched them approaching and passing our ill-guided barque. There was on board a passenger named Hall, who had been in Australia before, and he was consulted, as an oracle might be by devotees, on things in general, and especially on the matter of storms, which he would always treat lightly as being nothing, and "Oh, that's nothing" became a bye-word when anything unusual occurred to disturb the equanimity of the people. So when preparations were being made at the wheel, with captain, officers, and quarter-master standing by to handle the "*Dangerous*" deftly at this supreme juncture, all eyes stared and all hearts beat quick when it became evident that she was not steering clear of the ominous-

looking waves astern. On, on, on they came, and the fear was, that as the one succeeded the other at so short intervals, the great length of the ship would bridge them both with her stem and stern, and leave her "midships" in the trough without sufficient depth of floating medium, and, like the ill-starred *President*, break her back; such, at least, was the theory of the knowing ones on board. So up they came, and up, high up went the stern, and deep down, deep as into an abyss, dipt the stem, and immediately down went the stern and up came the bowsprit as she rode the first wave, but what a wave! The boldest held his breath for a time, but fear had fled us now; the sense of danger had given place to a feeling of awe and wonder. The succeeding billow lifted and let fall the stern and stem in the same manner as the first; they both rolled past with a loud hissing noise caused by the water foaming, their curling crests falling on their solid breasts. They had hardly passed the ship when "Charlie Jones," a careless Cockney wag, shouted out, "Hall, you look very queer; that's nothing, you know," which made Hall only wonder that Charlie was not afraid that Providence would strike him dead. But Charlie did not appear to fear anything so serious happening to him at any rate; but Mr. Hall was never heard afterwards trying to allay people's fears by affecting to despise the causes of them as nothing. After much anxiety, and fatigue in pumping, we managed to reach Albany, King George's Sound. As I will have occasion to speak about this port when I return five years afterwards, I will pass on to Adelaide, to which we had to sail across the great Australian Bight (about 1600 miles), and where we anchored in the gulf about two miles from Port-Adelaide, from which in due time we steered away

to Melbourne and moored in Hobson's Bay during the rainy season—the nature of which, with the condition of the city, may be guessed from the fact, and fact it is, that on the day of our landing there were two horses drowned in Elizabeth Street. Among the first of our fellow passengers who recognized me while reading a placard on the streets of Melbourne, was Mr. James M'Culloch of Glasgow, who with his partner Mr. Sellars had wisely left us at the Cape of Good Hope, taking with them from the coffers of the *Adelaide* an amount of specie the interest of which, from the protracted nature of the voyage, must have involved a serious loss somewhere. The next friends I fell in with were those whom I had pitied for taking out their passages in the tub, *Loch Lomond*, which we left sleeping at the Tail of the Bank, and who with the public had given us up as lost.

I have just stated, that on the day of our landing, there were two horses drowned in the centre of the city. This, or the like of it, was not a very unusual occurrence during the rainy season. The streets, which had not yet been paved, were subject to sudden inundations. The part of Elizabeth Street where this accident took place is the lowest level in the city, and I believe the difficulty of draining it has not been yet altogether overcome. The gutters were gullies rather than gutters, and would have made passable common sewers if there had been a fall into the Yarra Yarra; but this was impossible. These gullies, therefore, soon became deep and dangerous. The foot-paths of miry clay, muddled by the plunging of knee and jack-booted pedestrians, gave but a faint notion of how matters stood on the highway. "Stuck in the mud" was no mere figure of speech, but a veri-

able reality. Teams of bullocks bogged belly deep, but still floundering on with the shod point of the dray pole often dipping deep in the mud, while the dray itself, encumbered with a load of miscellaneous merchandise, would detrimentally swing right over into the element prepared for it; while the drawing-room drivers bent on extrication, plied their fishing-rods, whose lines tipped with platted and knotted silk, as being the most effectual scarifiers to them known to the hides of the labouring brutes in their own scientific manner, and which to them is a science in which they pride themselves, accompanied with execrations addressed to that principle of their being which it is said goes downwards, thinking perhaps that the consignment of the immaterial part of the animal to the volcanic region (which is the condemnation of all, man and beast, who may chance to ruffle the repose of certain benevolent natures), may assist in raising the visible fleshly portion to a position of usefulness, at which they make vain and painful efforts, which draw upon them renewed applications of the lancing lash. Patient ox! Who careth for oxen? not man surely! The scenes at the more busy parts of the city were of the most tumultuous and exciting character. Hobson's Bay at the present time is a tame affair to what it was sixteen years since. Thickly studded with ships of largest tonnage, their masts and yards taut, and rigging bare, in consequence of the greater number of their crews having gone to the gold-fields, seemed like a scorched and blasted plantation, while others were full of animation, discharging cargoes, whose shippers, eager to catch the fanning breeze of fortune, often suffered loss from overestimating (or indeed not thinking it their business) the consuming power of a limited population,

which although in certain commodities four times the quantities which the same number placed in other circumstances were capable of or could command. The Yarra Yarra (on which the city of Melbourne was making and settling itself), from the level character of the country, is a sluggish river which, from receiving the surface washings of the ploughed streets, often assumed an appearance which was suggestive of the sewage question. The wharf hastily erected was the chief point of debarkation, and the number of daily arrivals and the vast quantities of luggage and miscellaneous merchandise it was bound to receive in all weathers, soon converted all the ground around into a quagmire. If the depths had been known, they would not have been so mysterious to those who had never sounded them. The treacherous surface was only a covering to hide the pitfalls below. The bullock drivers, with their far-reaching whips, could veer and tack their teams without venturing far into the unknown. It was otherwise with the carters, whose horses had to be guided and held up by the head, else the plunging and stumbling animals would have made a wreck of the pitching and rolling carts and tilted waggons which they drew. It was an abyss in which the dry land appeared in islands here and there, else what would have become of the animals? The luggage of many a bewildered one found its way to these havens as if by instinct; piles upon piles either floated or were borne on the shoulders of an amphibious race, whose outreness was not so frightful to contemplate as the rapacity of their charges. Their prey was passengers, and the angry growl with which even the most pitiful remonstrances were met, proved how very soon indeed men under certain circumstances, if unrestrained

by uniform principles of integrity and honour, show that
"It is their nature too."

Turning to the opposite shore and the grounds adjoining, a scene is presented which in appearance nothing but a military camp could match. It is a mushroom city, "Canvas Town," coming up like a gourd, and withering as quickly away. It is a field covered over with tents, frail frame-works covered with canvas or calico, the habitations of many who had left comfortable homes, but, finding themselves shelterless, have recourse to this primitive alternative. There was no room for them in the inns, taverns, or boarding-houses, nor was there house accommodation to be had on almost any terms. Although the greater portion of the inhabitants of this quarter were likely enough told that something like this would be their portion, and all have said and boasted that they could rough it, when confronted with the dire reality they shrank from the repulsive encounter with loathing, but it was too late. The moral deterioration consequent on inevitable contact with neighbouring indulgence was rapid. The evil engenderings in the lanes, streets, and clusters of tents inhabited by families whose male bread-winners were at the diggings, soon became manifest in the numbers of illicit venders of spirits which cropped up among them, which soon made even the well bred brazen, and the virtuous voluptuous. The plague of flies and mosquitoes issuing from the debris and refuse of orgies, and the stagnant and steaming pools of liquid accumulations, became apparent in many a formerly comely enough countenance. It need not be inferred that this was a condition endured without feelings of regret and remorse, "but oh! it hardens a' within, and petrifies the feeling." The sudden influx

of people into a place totally unprepared to receive them was taken advantage of by the fortunate holders of ground, and by speculators who contrived by fair means and foul to monopolize the available building space, and would not sell it at less than fabulous rates. The privation resulting from this dearth of accommodation was aggravated by the incessant cry, "They come, they come," until the newly arrived are found crammed into every bit of miserable space; and now the city is a seething-pot, whose scum is not the vicious nor the vile nor the outcast, who continue as the residuum, but mainly the spirited, intrepid, educated, and industrious of their several former localities, who, rather than stand idle in an over-crowded market-place, or drudge a hopeless drudgery, or be elbowed too pinchingly by competing neighbours, had resolved after mature deliberation to strike out a path which might lead them to that tide which if taken at the flood bears on to fortune. These do not remain long in Melbourne, but, forming themselves into parties, prepare for the gold-fields. There were a manliness and hopefulness in the spectacle which might be witnessed every morning, in the characteristically equipped parties leaving for the rugged fields of their hardy enterprize. A party is formed, say at home or on shipboard, or perhaps, by a more wise election, postponed until they would see how the land lay, and to what field it would be the most prudent to betake themselves. It was found desirable, as often as it could be obtained, to enlist one who had been on the ground before. These were not very difficult to find about Melbourne. The ghosts of lucky miners who, having knocked down their pile, which they came deliberately down to do, cleaned out, with nothing left but the rueful traces of their for-

midable debauch, were glad to be taken on with a party of new chums, who on their part as gladly stipulated that in return for the benefit of his experience he should at once be received into their mess, which very often, as far as his requirements were concerned, included a new rig, as well as all the privileges which their united purse was to furnish. To all such parties there were three courses open—the Ovens, Bendigo, and Ballarat. The last was the most popular, both as being the most productive and nearest to Melbourne, the distance being only about eighty miles. Equipped in ordinary suitable clothing; shod with hob-nailed highlows and sporting a broad-brimmed felt or straw hat, plus a swag made up of rug and other indispensable articles; and in one hand a billy, (that is, a tin utensil for making tea, and for other useful purposes), and in the other a stout staff—the pilgrims started full of mettle, in good spirits and high in hope, which was sometimes damped by the impracticability of the Black Forest, which confronted them not long after leaving Melbourne; but pushing on they arrive all right at Ballarat, where they fall in with a few old friends and acquaintances, who gladly hail them and soon set them to work at the unusual occupation, at which they very soon become adepts. It is a great mistake to suppose that clerks, counter and other desk and salesmen, do not make good miners; they make the very best, just as they are the most agile and efficient at all athletic and other manly exercises. As a rule, they have been the most successful class embraced in the various industrial occupations which the gold-fields initiate. After passing through their curriculum as miners, their education and training fit and urge them on to store-keeping, and by successive advancements

they ultimately become merchants and wool-growers. Such is the present condition of many who have started off just as I have described their entrance on the enterprise of their campaign to

BALLARAT.

Here, within a compass of sixty miles, are congregated the great bulk of the mining community; and here, as the vulture to the carrion, flocked the commissariat of the camp; and here around them, and in their midst, flaunted those garish seductions before which strong men bowed themselves. Could you have got but a bird's eye view of that laborious throng, and been able to trace in their varied lineaments the emotions by which they were swayed, you would feel that the too eager pursuit of mere wealth is under all circumstances a corroding chase. Here is one to whom the cruel earth has refused to yield up its golden treasures, and in his sore disappointment he despairingly though reluctantly gives himself to scenes of dissipation and folly. Here is another who, though still unsuccessful, labours manfully on; resisting every allurement to turn aside, maintaining his integrity, and courageously going on under the inspiring conviction that the reward of his perseverance will one day be comfort and competence, and he is not disappointed. Here is another who has been uniformly fortunate, but who has as uniformly squandered his glittering gains; but not without compunction either, for when he has given all away and fortune and friends fail, he bethinks himself of home and his obligations, and of the expectations formed regarding him there, and of the vows he made that, although every one should fail in their duty, he would be faithful; but among the faithful he is not found.

The revolution which has overtaken gold-mining, while it has subjected the operatives to the condition of servants, has placed them in a position of regularity. While in the condition of undertakers on their own account, they were the subjects of chance; and although upon the whole their united receipts may not equal the average of former findings, their incomes being now fixed and steady, they are enabled to calculate and husband their means, and thus their habits and general social condition are visibly improved. But it must be admitted that their physical condition is deteriorated by the nature of their toil, and the circumstances under which their labour is done. The evil is, that the miner has no responsible employer. The capital invested and the value of the property is allocated in shares, the scrip and bonds representing which are sold publicly, and often by auction, every day. Capel Court in London and the corner at Ballarat, are equally in their degree the scenes of intense excitement and speculation; and the holders of scrip know no more about the physical or moral condition of the men in their employment than any other person, and were there not a minister of mines with a seat in the cabinet, the condition of the digger would be much worse than it is. This is, however, the worst that can be said. Wages average 40s. a week of 48 hours, or tenpence per hour. But with the greatest amount of vigilance which can be practised, there are difficulties in the way to prevent mines from being obnoxious to health. Proper means of ventilation are still a desideratum, which tells powerfully on the health of the workmen; and they are so well aware of the cause and the consequence, that the cry to open up the land has been answered by the Government of the day in a

spirit of liberality which will offer fields for more congenial employment to many whose inclinations lead them to prefer the earth's green face and the untainted air of heaven to the fetid atmosphere of a densely-peopled, ill-ventilated gold-pit. A great many of the operatives are, however, participants in the yields resulting from joint operations, and the prospects of the men as a class are otherwise cheerful. The facilities for settling on the land will ease the pressure of competition for employment at gold-digging, and cheapen the rates of agricultural produce; and thus render a double benefit to the industrious portions of the population, who will soon, by being patient in well-doing, frugal and industrious, with those aids which science and art can now afford in abridging and easing his toil, enable the workman, in whatever sphere of industry his energies are employed, to find his way by mutual co-operation to send his produce to the dearer cereal markets of Europe.

The improvement of the social condition of the industrious classes of Australia, both in respect to gold-finding and manufacturing and agricultural occupations, will much depend on the efforts which may be made to obtain those aids. What is required is heads, hands, willing hands, labour, manual labour, machinery to aid the husbandman in his work, and to supersede those portions of it which strain and tear and grind his physical system; machinery to plough, and sow, and reap, and thresh, and grind; machinery to excavate and dig, and batter and bruise and pulverize the obdurate rock in whose tenacious gripe is held that precious gold for which the enterprising digger has braved and endured so much. These are being gradually introduced, which, with the extension of the railway policy of the country, will

enhance the industry of the colony, and render it attractive enough to draw to itself larger numbers of the surplus labour of European population.

At the time of my arrival in 1853 the general aspect of things was depressing. A reaction had set in. Some of the gold-fields were failing. The influx of people was too instantaneous: there was not time for matters to adjust themselves. The vast accumulations of goods were eating themselves up by charges, and the discontent on the gold-fields was cause of uneasiness to many. The political condition of the country was very unsatisfactory. It was governed indirectly by the Crown; Mr. Latrobe, the governor, recommended for appointment the majority of the legislative assembly. His chief secretary was unpopular, whether from incapacity, unreasonable prejudice, or the impatience of disappointment on the part of many who expected such an administration of affairs as would favour their pretensions to concessions which the government were reluctant to encourage, it would be difficult to determine. The want of house accommodation and storage for goods was also a source of irritation and loss, which enabled the early auctioneers to do a thriving trade. Their rooms were almost the only marts of exchange. The unsettled populations of the auriferous districts had not anywhere become sufficiently stable to justify the establishment of wholesale stores; and the carriers—the caterers for the retailers in the upper regions of the colony—crowded these auction rooms, and marvellous exchanges took place. To pacify clamorous shippers at home, consignees had to effect sales at any price yielding proceeds; which, when pruned by two or three commissions, storage, cartage, damages, rats (who are a cunning

folk, and to whom I will pay my respects by and by), made the rendering of account sales a painful operation. Every commodity almost was the subject of tantalizing fluctuation; all except grog, grog. Every teamster for the diggings must, in addition to flour, butter, candles, sugar, rice, raisins, potatoes, herrings, and bacon, have grog—Martel, Hennessy, Tennent, Allsopp, Bass, Booth, Guinness, gin, square and round, old Tom and Geneva, from Vauxhall and Holland—every one must have grog, in bottle, jar, demijohn, wood, or glass. The station teams too, led by Brandy, Poley, Strawberry, Yellowman, and their yokefellows, were commissioned to make grog a leading article in the rations for the stations. Having stored my investments, in my extremity, somewhere about Cole's Wharf in Melbourne, I sailed down the bay fifty miles to Geelong, to execute some commissions and deliver some letters of introduction—a bore to all concerned—and to visit some friends; and was much chagrined to find that in this fine promising town there was hardly a place to be had, and the rate of rents was appalling, and such as to cause one to wonder if the amateur proprietors were not subject to the periodical changes of the moon. That their greed was impolitic I had no manner of doubt; and that their rapacity, combined with the prodigal feather-in-the-nest, blood-is-thicker-than-water style in which public funds were dissipated, ultimately damaged, and all but ruined the town, is now notorious. Geelong should have been the capital, and a splendid one it would have made; but the goose and the golden egg kind of thrift which characterized its hey-day, when on the tide which would have at the flood led on to fortune, was attended with the usual result. Lying in the very bosom of the capacious bay,

on one of the most desirable undulating sites it is possible to match ; with a climate tempered to a condition of positive luxury ; flanked by the finest agricultural regions in the colony ; and backed by the auriferous district of Ballarat and its abounding wealth, and to which it is nearer in point of distance by nearly one-half than Melbourne—it failed to realize the advantage with which these matchless qualities invested it, and fell under the more energetic imperialism of its less favourably situated triumphant rival. I, however, took the bull by the horns, and rented a place whose capacity and situation, considered in relation to its rent and taxes, is laughable to think of. After fitting it up in the usual way, I had it filled with about the most incongruous lot of merchandise I ever saw offered for sale under one roof. In addition to hard and soft goods of all kinds, I duly apprized the public, on opening my complicated warehouse, that I would sell off the entire lot of two invoices of books of the most useful class. In addition to a great variety of instructive, entertaining, attractive, and amusing books, including family, pulpit, presentation, pew, and pocket bibles and testaments, as well as psalm and music books, I had, *pro bono publico*, a choice assortment of commendable volumes, suitably embellished for the parlour table, and no end of humorous hand-books, specially adapted for tented gold-fields and home circles, and for all who wished to spend an hour between toil and sleep in mental recreation—"Whistle Binkie", "Laird of Logan", "Lancashire Clogs"—writing paper, coloured edges, perforated zinc in various patterns, suitable for larders, meat-safes, door panels ; ladies' chemisettes, cuffs, and collars, and Polson's starch for dressing them.

EX JANET OF GLASGOW.

Three hundred cooking conjurers, being the first consignment to the colony of this admirable apparatus for cooking without *ordinary* fuel. The consignee confidently invites attention to their operation at his store, which will at once suggest to visitors the various purposes in domestic economy to which they may be applied. Independent of the manifest saving which will be the result of their frequent use, the retention by the food so cooked of its most nutritive qualities furnishes a desideratum of no mean importance to all who are careful of their digestive powers, and who enjoy the relish of a thoroughly cooked and palatable dish. Indispensable when the weather renders fire for domestic purposes intolerable, the digger's companion, a boon to the bush, weight thirteen ounces, price correspondingly trifling, &c., &c.

It soon became evident that, in modestly setting forth the undeniable merits of my conjurers, I had either struck the right nail on the head, or that I had shot too high and missed the heads of the classes to whom it was to be a boon and companion. Ladies and gentlemen, public and professional, were not long in finding out the benefactor who had imported the very article wanted. A cooking range! that was what they wanted, and expected to see in operation. The mayor, Dr. Baillie, one morning announced himself, and in the blandest manner assured me that I had brought the very article wanted, as well as the bibles, which he assured me were also much wanted. Ministers with their wives and daughters were pleased that I had imported bibles rather than

brandy, of which there was too much already, and would gladly take the opportunity of looking at the cooking range in operation. The number present at one time, made me regret the limited capacity of my warehouse, and the multifarious character of the goods it contained, especially when their satins and broad cloth were exhibiting such disagreeable, and to me painful, tokens of contact with bran and flour sacks. I was also chagrined to find, and visited with palpitating misgivings, on overhearing the leading remarks on the qualities of the apparatus by my patrons, while waiting until I would commence operations. But who can picture their features on finding, when I brought it forth, that the range could be carried under the crown of a hat, or in a digger's swag, and that spirits of wine, or some other alcoholic beverage, was required for fuel; while they expected to see in operation something like a cooking depot range, *without* fuel. On some observation being made which I thought reflected on the nature of my advertisement, I stood at bay, and referred them to the fact that I had said without *ordinary* fuel, and that although the conjurors would be found a convenient article in the best of households, it prominently professed to be a digger's companion and boon to the bush, weight thirteen ounces: a reference which, although it turned the tables on my visitors, enabled me to learn, if I had not known it before, that my advertisement, although literally true, was couched in strains fitted to excite expectations which were not realized; and, after all, it will be found that, as a rule, the safest and ultimately the most profitable style of advertising is that which is simple, plain, and matter of fact. The conjurers were a failure, in conse-

quence of the miners who had them using the fuel internally, instead of applying it to the legitimate and economical purpose intended.

Finding, notwithstanding extraordinary expenses and rates of every thing, that matters were sufficiently encouraging to attempt a bolder flight, I did so, and alighted in a quarter which, although the best I could find, was by no means a very favourable specimen of what a place of business with such pretensions should be; but bad and isolated as it was, I was not prepared for the

FEARFUL MIDNIGHT VISITATION

which, soon after my occupation of the premises, occurred. The prevailing numbers of liberated convicts and ticket-of-leave men from Van Diemen's Land and New South Wales, attracted from the dreary outlying wildernesses to rising townships which the sudden influx of so many well-to-do people were forming, were still, from the habits of the old man within them, the lingering objects of suspicion and fear by many who, never having been brought into contact with felons, were by no means disposed to entertain the idea that there could possibly be such a thing as reformed malefactors: and there are many of them striving and thriving colonists, who for some trifling offence have been banished from their country and kindred, and who, if they had been more considerately dealt with, might have saved the country the expense of their expatriation, and, after an ordeal of purgation by some more profitable method of warning to others, emerged good enough members of the community. But there are few people in business in the Australian colonies who have not suffered severe

losses by the thievish and burglarious, and often murderous propensities of "lags," who required to have a vigilant eye kept on them; and many, for the protection of their goods, had to submit to privations which otherwise might have been conveniently avoided. I had, at the far end of my warehouse, a space partitioned off for a counting-room. It had the advantage of having a window at each side, protected with iron stanchions. I had, in addition to the usual counting-room furnishings, an iron stretcher, on which, for the protection of the property within, I slept; and often felt, from the solitary position in which the store stood, eerie, but was getting reconciled to it; when one night, not long after I had lain down, I was startled by a most unusual disturbance in the warehouse, not far from the partition wall. I got up in a state of tremor which I cannot very well describe, lighted my candle, and opening the door of my room, demanded in as authoritative a tone as I could assume, who was there, and warned them, whoever they were, that I was armed; when, alas, my only weapons were my own arms of flesh—a poor support in times of trouble. "I tell you I am armed, and you will have yourselves to blame for the consequences"—but all was still as midnight, which it was; and the stillness was unbroken, all but the patterning of the rain on the shingle roof, and the heavy dropping of the eaves, which added to the stillness, and appeared to deepen the gloom of the darkness, which the candle I thoughtlessly held in my hand served to increase; but, deep into that darkness peering, and nothing seeing, nothing hearing, I was willing to believe that the disturbance was caused by the prowling of some vagrant goats, and returned to my desolate room and tried to

read, but could not; but all being quiet I ventured to lie down again on my narrow bed, when, almost immediately afterwards, I was alarmed by a repetition of the disturbance which was much more violent than the former. Luckily, before lying down after the first alarm, I had taken to my small-clothes and was in my shirt-sleeves. After searching in vain for a stick or any other weapon, I opened the door again and assured the assassins that it was of no use their trying to escape; I had taken good care of that. But it was not for their escape I was concerned so much; it was my own, which I was endeavouring to effect by a side door, to which, despite of the burglars, I had reached, but found it locked, and the key, which should have been in the lock inside, gone. I hastily retreated into my room, barricaded the door as well as I could, and found myself a prisoner indeed. The windows were protected with stanchions, and I could not escape. The ceiling being calico instead of lath and plaster, and the roof formed of shaky shingles, I would have emerged from my dungeon in that direction; but I was afraid of their daring accomplices outside, who would do anything rather than allow an alarm. I was sitting on the edge of my bed, tremulous with fear, and hardly daring to breathe, when I was aroused by a crash just outside of my barricaded door. In my bewildered state, after taking away the lumber from it, I opened the door, and found horror added to my consternation on perceiving a chair upset and lying across my passage. Back, back, I at once went backwards, back, and dashing the door in their faces for anything I knew, I took my boots and seated myself again on the bed, in a state of perturbation by which I was completely overcome. Lord Brougham, in a discourse on

the evidences of natural theology, in giving instances of the subtlety of thought and the rapidity of the succession of ideas, says:—"Let anyone who is extremely overpowered with drowsiness—as after sitting up all night and sleeping none next day—lie down, and begin to dictate, he will find himself falling asleep after uttering a few words, and he will be awakened by the person who writes repeating the last word to show he has written the whole; not above five or six seconds must elapse, and the sleeper will find it at first quite impossible to believe that he has not been asleep for hours, and will chide the amanuensis for having fallen asleep over his work, so great, apparently, will be the length of time the dream he has dreamt—extending through half a lifetime;" which may be all quite true, and no doubt is. Reference to the phenomenon here will at any rate serve as a foil to the statement I am going to make respecting the rapidity of thought, as it passed and changed during the momentary reverie which my nervous excitement produced: I had encountered robbers, fought with and been beaten and bruised by them, while calling in vain for help. The scene shifted to a distance of 14,000 miles, to a police court in Glasgow, when confronting and about to give evidence against my assailants my right arm refused its office, and so would the left if it had been tried—they were rigid. Other particulars in the process of the trial passed before me in the panorama—all which could not have occupied more than a few moments, for the actual time was that which passed between the moment when I put my foot into the leg of my boot and getting it home to its seat; and no doubt but the sense of rigidity in my arms was induced by the strain of the muscles

caused by the perturbed state of the mind while drawing the boot on. But I was not in a condition to philosophize at the time. As soon as I got booted and otherwise equipped I sallied out, candle in hand, to offer them any terms short of my life. The first obstacle was the prostrate chair, and in stooping down to lift it, I found two or three pieces of barrel-heads, strewed over with oats, and at once the truth flashed on me—it had not been human burglars at all, but

RATS AT A REVEL.

On the day preceding this eventful night I had received into stock, in addition to other goods, a large quantity of fine English oats in barrel, and being pressed for room a number of these barrels had been placed close up to the partition wall; and to permit of their being sampled, the heads of some were taken off and placed loose on the tops; and the whole secret of the row was, that a swarm of rats took to sampling the oats in their own way—tumbling over the loose pieces of the lids, and in their gambols leaping on the chair, which, having only three legs, had canted when pressed on the corner which was minus one. This, at any rate, is the only way I can account for the chair being found in the position it was, as it was not there when I passed a few minutes before. But now, although my fears had been allayed, my troubles of the night had by no means passed. I was exhausted and nervous from the previous excitement, and had lain down in my clothes, and leaving the candle burning at my bed-side soon fell asleep, and with my own breathing and the burning candle speedily consumed the small quantum of air which the confined room, with closed door and windows, contained : added

to which, the morning sun beating on the window-glass heated the apartment to a degree which, with the exhalations of my own body, produced an atmosphere stifling to a state which made my dreamy aberrations frightfully oppressive—until I started up, gasping, choking; and rightly guessing the cause, I smashed a square of glass right and left, causing a stream of air to flow in and out, which, passing over the jagged splinters of the glass, produced a low wailing sound not unlike that given forth by an *Æolian* harp placed in my lady's well-adjusted casement! The breaking of the windows alarming some of my neighbours, brought to my relief friends whom some hours before I would have gladly hailed.

It may be thought that I have travelled a very round-about way to introduce such an unsavoury subject as rats. I have merely related the circumstance as it occurred; and if the incident can in any way call attention to the destruction of property caused by the repulsive depredations of the vermin, reference to the subject will not have been unprofitable. Bottle-nosed whales!—never mind the whales, until some progress be made in the extirpation of rats. The calculated weekly cost to one firm in my immediate neighbourhood was about £30, or £1500 a year. This loss, as they were commission merchants, would in some way or other fall on the shippers, who sometimes may be disappointed, notwithstanding taking notes of current rates, at their returns. Though a loathsome and hated and hunted, they must be a mysteriously sensitive or sensible, race. They have no liking for Ballarat. It is a fact which naturalists cannot account for, that they will not remain in that region. Interested parties have tried the experiment of propagation, and have failed. They have

been brought from Melbourne and Geelong, and let loose in breeding pairs, but have never been seen afterwards. All the conditions for settling down there in abundant comfort exist as plenteously as in other places where their name is legion, but nothing will induce them. Is there something in the name of the place that frightens them?—mice live and thrive in a comfortable enough way—or is it some chemical or odorous peculiarity? That would be worth finding out, with a view to their banishment from other regions by the application of the same subtle elements. But whatever the cause may be—whether it be a prejudice or the presence of some condition incompatible with their comfort—you cannot catch a live rat in Ballarat!

THE POLITICAL CONDITION OF THE COUNTRY.

The colony, about the time of which I am writing, was in a rather unsettled state. The mining population had been subjected to a system of taxation exceptional and onerous. It was the payment of a license fee for the right to search for gold. The indiscriminate nature of the exaction was found to be distressingly oppressive. The fortunate and unfortunate had to pay alike. It was a capitation tax, and no matter although you had laboured in vain for a year, there was no remission. This was prior to the institution of representative government in the colony of Victoria; and Mr. Foster, the chief secretary, who was considered to be the author of the unpopular impost, was detested. He ruled with a high hand; he would not be moved by the representations of the several deputations who waited upon him. They could get no redress, and their reports to their constituents gradually produced a feeling of dis-

content, which found utterance in language which, in a well-ordered state of society, would have been held as disloyal, if not treasonable. The government had a difficult part to play. The troops at hand were a mere handful, and the aggrieved multitudes, in a state of incipient rebellion, were armed with the most deadly weapons. It was felt to be a time of danger; prudent counsellors could not obtain a hearing either from the government or the defiant leaders of the remonstrants; and the consequence was personal collision between the troops and the insurgents. Blood was shed, lives were sacrificed; some of the leaders were taken red-handed; and they were not supported, nor were they likely to be, for although the tax and its authors were the subjects of execration, the sentiments of loyalty to the crown were quite unaffected; and even if they had been questionable, the position of the great body of the miners was that of proprietors, with vested interests in the soil. The labour performed in every shaft amounted to so much capital, which, unlike almost every other sort of capital, could not be removed, or, perhaps, even claimed, in the event of sanguinary strife. After a brief encounter with the troops, the insurgents, fighting from within their well-appointed stockade, capitulated and fled.

The genius of the British constitution immediately revealed itself. The call of the authorities in Melbourne, Geelong, and other well-affected centres of population, to the inhabitants to enrol themselves as constables of the peace, was responded to with alacrity. In the absence of railways and electric telegraphs the reports of the risings in the gold-fields were exaggerated and conflicting; and fears were entertained that a formidable irruption from the

auriferous districts, incited by the lawless and socially-proscribed felons, would make a plundering descent on the coast towns. But the firm front and determined attitude of the authorities, supported as they were by the reigning sentiment and the chivalrous spirit displayed by the people in the interests of order, together with the want of sympathy on the part of the prudent and more reflecting portion of the mining population with the violent course into which the leaders plunged, soon restored order, and allayed the fears which the menacing disposition of many had not unreasonably excited. The truce was, however, of short duration. The momentary clash of arms ceased only to give place to a conflict of opinion. The discomfited Eureka stockaders were not deserted in their day of adversity. As the vindicators of the aggrieved miners' rights they had the sympathy of many who deplored their rash recourse to force redress by arms. The prisoners, of whom some occupied, and still occupy, prominent positions, were tried under conditions of tumultuous party spirit. Sir Charles Hotham had but recently entered upon the most onerous and delicate task with which any governor could be charged. He had but recently been welcomed with an acclaim which conquerors might have coveted. His reception by the press and people was of the most promising character; but the confusion towards which the colony had been drifting culminated on the very threshold of his brief and lamentable career. His popularity did not do much more than outlive the pomp and circumstance of his entry; and on his innocent head fell with vindictive utterance no small share of the indignation which some of the schemes of the unpopular minister had excited. During the trial of the prisoners

for high treason Melbourne was kept in a state of great excitement by harangues from popular tribunes, which, if they did not affect the issue, were considered by many to be incompatible with those conditions of unrestrained freedom with which the deliberations of a jury should always be surrounded. The prosecution failed in obtaining a verdict, and from that moment Sir Charles Hotham felt that he was powerless. He, instead of the laws and constitution of the country, was looked upon as the prosecutor. He was assailed as being vindictive, incapable, mean, and parsimonious. The circumstances of his appointment were forgotten, and the approbation with which that appointment was stamped cancelled by the frugality which disappointed purveyors, and not a few plebian epicurean courtiers, characterized his public hospitalities; and he felt it poignantly. It was not the punishment of sense alone which grieved him; it was the punishment of loss, as well. The laurels he gained as the hero of the River Plate elevated him into a position which, but for his acceptance of the office of governor at such a distance from the scene of war, would have opened up to him the way to high command in the naval squadrons which sallied out against Russia during the Crimean war; and he died of a broken heart. He was succeeded by Colonel Macarthur, who, as head of the military forces of the country, assumed the office as a matter of routine, which he held as *locum tenens* of

SIR HENRY BARKLY,

who was called from the West Indies to occupy the coveted position. Sir Henry was a trained attaché and diplomatist, who, from his experience, contrived

to handle the colonial velocipede for eight or ten years without further mishap than an occasional jolt from a stump or crabhole. He was of the give and take temper on the road, and managed to attain and retain popularity and place until it was hinted that the era of economy, which was to be inaugurated in the colony, would commence with the governor's salary, and so Sir Henry took himself off to pastures new—as the colonial secretary for the time being is generally able, by shuffling the cards, to provide for a servant who has by his temper and tact done the state some service. Sir Henry arrived about the time when the new constitution of Victoria was on its trial, which soon dissipated the fears which some entertained respecting the clause instituting

VOTE BY BALLOT,

which in its operation proved to be much more conservative than destructive. The town of Geelong was provided with four members for the Legislative Assembly, for which at the first election there were six candidates, all more or less imbued with democratic notions, with the exception of Mr. Charles Sladen, a gentleman of unimpeachable character and high social and political status. He was in the recent Parliament treasurer for the colony; and as a member of the administration which with a select committee drew up the new constitution, and from his conservative proclivities, was considered as one of the advisers of any of the antidemocratic clauses it contained, and of the fifty-third in particular, commonly known as the state aid to religion clause; of which it may be observed that its authors, whoever they were, acted most disingenuously in having a

clause making provision for the support of religion in the constitution at all. If it was found desirable to set apart any of the revenue for religious purposes, the proper way would have been by legislative enactment, by which a majority of the people's representatives might at any time alter or abolish the grant; but by embodying it in the constitution, it became subject to imperial review, likewise to the condition of requiring two-thirds of a majority in both Houses of the Colonial Parliament to touch it in any way. Many of us who were determinedly opposed to this clandestine trick of making that which should have been an emanation from the constitution, form part of it, availed ourselves of our remaining privileges, and petitioned against it in the colony; and when that failed sent petitions to the House of Commons, during its passage through the Imperial Parliament, against the obnoxious and strife-begetting clause, which, by the able instrumentality of Mr. Edward Miall, M.P. for Rochdale, was stoutly opposed. We were beaten, but we accepted our defeat with the loyal dispositions of those who, knowing that they have had fair play, resign themselves to the inevitable conditions of their fate. But this did not prevent the subject from becoming the leading question at the first election; and at a public meeting held in the town hall of Geelong to promote the election of Mr. Sladen, it became the only dividing question of the evening. The writer had been requested by the friends with whom he generally acted in this matter to question the candidate on it, and the answers he received not being satisfactory, moved that Mr. Sladen's opinions on this vital question being opposed to those of the public, and subversive of the principles of

religious equality, confidence in his fitness to represent the town could not be awarded. On the vote being taken, the mayor, who was chairman, declared the number to be equal; but from the platform it was easily seen how the meeting was inclined, and taking the matter out of the chairman's hands, called on those who were opposed to Mr. Sladen to divide, when about three-fourths of the meeting rushed over to our side; proving uncontestedly how, if the election had been by open voting, the candidate would have fared. Many who voted for him would have been deterred from doing so in deference to the public sentiment; but the ballot, the conservator of conscience, enabled the electors, unawed by public clamour, to weigh his demerit on this question with his merit as a high-toned gentleman whose public and private deportment commanded their respect and confidence on the other; and the consequence was that, of the six candidates, he stood second on the poll; proving, I think, beyond all lingering of doubt, that the ballot, whether it be un-English or un-Irish, affords the only guarantee for the conscientious discharge of a public duty, as it is for the preservation of the peace of communities, who under other circumstances are brought often into fatal collision, as was not long afterwards anticipated at an election for the city of Melbourne. The participants of this colonial donum provision for promoting religion include, with the exception of Independents, Baptists, and a few of the more consistent United Presbyterians, all the other evangelical and non-evangelical denominations, Roman Catholics, Episcopalians, Presbyterians, Unitarians, Wesleyans, and other Methodists, and I think Jews; and if not, why not? There are of course many, very many, members and adherents of these denominations who

would much rather support their ministers without having recourse to such a reprehensible source of aid from state funds, which are contributed compulsorily for, and which are consecrated to, state secular purposes; the diversion from which, by a minority strategically placed by the terms of the constitution in an unfair position of enforcing their unrighteous claims, is as much an act of spoliation as if the state were to rob the treasury of any church of its funds voluntarily contributed for sacred purposes. The candidates at the election were Mr. Murphy, a prominent member of the Roman Catholic church, and a wealthy squatter to boot; and as such determinedly opposed to opening up the crown lands to the people; and as the Roman Catholics generally move in a body on all matters in which the action of their church is concerned, he was as deeply pledged to maintain the state aid to religion clause. The other candidate was Mr. James Service, a successful merchant, who was tooth and nail an anti-state churchman, and head and heels in favour of opening up the land on terms which would enable industriously inclined families to settle on the soil. The interest in the questions which the candidates personified became deep and earnest. The spirit of nationality which was naturally imported into the contest, intensified the feeling which the opposing elements had already evoked, and as the day of election approached, fears were entertained that a collision at the polling booths would signalize the day in a manner of which the Blackburn and other English and Irish riots, with their savage and deadly concomitants, would be but a faint type; but the ballot booth proved to be the great pacifier, the silent arbiter of the conflict, and the election passed off, as all

elections in Australia do, peacefully and economically, But it would be un-English to see elections proceed in this manner. Mr. Service was returned by a large majority.

JOHN CHINAMAN.

Every Chinaman is addressed by the mononom "John," and for what reason it would be difficult to say. John is a very plentiful, peaceful chattel; meek, patient, and passive. When he is bringing you his well-earned money "John" is a good fellow; but in almost every other relation in which he stands to the community he is an outcast, a pariah. This to a certain extent may be his own fault, as his ways are not as our ways. He may find his interest, peace, and comfort, consist more in herding with those of his own kindred, than in exposing himself to the treatment which is characteristic of the tender mercies of certain natures, which, as far as his experience goes, is not so exceptional as the world generally supposes. Those who have studied Chinaman nature, or who have read Mr. Davies' books on their institutions and disposition, know that habits which would be considered the offspring of mere sentiment with Europeans are with them a passion; and that the patriarchal system has nourished the filial and fraternal affections to a degree which finds its natural and proper ultimate seat in that love of country which they so much delight to cherish; and because, in obedience to these yearnings, they evince a disposition to return to the land of their fathers as soon as they have saved as much money as they may think desirable, they are denounced by far too many of their neighbours as robbing the colony of its wealth to carry it to China, and

that their presence among Europeans should be dis-countenanced. The migratory disposition which Chinamen as a people have more recently evinced, in finding their way to California and Australia, is more seeming than real; for as compared with the teeming millions out from among whom they have come forth, they are a mere handful to those who hail from Germany and the United Kingdom to the same regions. The feelings with which they are regarded are far from being creditable to the bulk of the colonists who indulge them. Those feelings amount to a prejudice which may not inappropriately be compared to that which is manifested, more or less, by the citizens of the United States of America towards the negro race. They have been the victims often of personal insult, assault, and violent outrage. They were ignored as aliens by the government which existed prior to the introduction of the constitution which enfranchised the people generally, by the imposition of a tax of £5 as a penalty for setting foot in the colony; and the first use which the newly enfranchised people made of their power was to increase this iniquitous poll-tax to £10: thus raising the colony to the unenviable position of being the only spot in her Majesty's wide dominions where the veriest outcast, slave, or fugitive who ever ran, was not as free to plant his foot and sojourn as freely as the best-born Briton who ever hailed from Albion. The impolitic and cruel nature of this dastardly impost soon became evident in the numbers who smuggled themselves into the colony. Vessels from Chinese ports freighted with passengers were chartered for and consigned to Adelaide, which was a free port for them as well as for others; but as their destination was the gold-fields of Victoria, they had to encounter fatigue, privation,

danger, and sometimes death, during their weary pilgrimage overland, 500 miles, to the scenes of their penurious labour. But it must be said that the government yielded to the imposition with reluctance. It could not be for the sake of revenue, as the treasury was not benefited much by it. The tax is now abolished, and in doing so the government acted wisely; but the feeling against "John" is still strong and inveterate, notwithstanding that in some respects he is an indispensable element in the social system. But for him the supply of vegetables, so necessary in a warm climate, would not be one-third what it is. Such is the nature of their intelligent, plodding industry, that it is no unusual thing to see large patches of ground reclaimed from the mounds of gravel and sterile condition in which the operative miners had left the gold-fields. Let it not be supposed that in making these reflections I am throwing a stone behind me, or that I did not much more earnestly use my humble influence on the spot to produce another sort of feeling than it would be seemly to attempt at a distance from it. Opinions differ on other matters of colonial policy, which form matter of public controversy, but these rightly belong to the colonists themselves to determine; but the cause of humanity is one in which civilization to its utmost limits is concerned, and in this matter deeply concerned. Pagans can hardly be expected to form a very high estimate of Christian precept from the example which many of them have of its practice on themselves, by many who are known by the name, but who, whatever be the regard they have for the first law, evince very little respect for the second, which is like unto it.

It is not intended to be implied that Europeans who

come from those nations from which the bulk of the colonial communities is supplied, can fraternize with Chinamen in the sense in which the more refined portion of Christian populations live together. But what is required is, that they be treated in a spirit of justice and forbearance ; and that they be not despised nor rejected as aliens, having no right to be sojourners in Australian regions as well as others, because if right to inhabit those regions were to be decided by geographical proximity, as Asiatics they have the best right. But as no such claim to priority is preferred, it will be well if that portion of the colonists who, in the prosecution of their arduous labours, are brought into more immediate contact with Chinamen, were to cultivate a more kindly disposition towards them, as the citizens of a vast and densely peopled empire, whose laws, habits, and idolatrous inculcations have kept them beyond the pale of the immeasurably more elevating principles under which it has been their privilege to have been nurtured; and to emulate that disposition of impartiality which the government and others in responsible positions in the colony are displaying towards Chinamen as members of the great and distracted human family, in their peaceable endeavours to raise themselves by industry and frugality above the condition which their native country offers so few chances of their being able to effect. It is a subject for serious reflection that the hostile feeling towards Chinamen in California is increasing in inveteracy; this is a woful example for the members of Christian nations to offer to the pagan world.

BUSHRANGING—TRIAL OF CAPTAIN MELVILLE.

Since the reign of terror which was about closing

with the career of Dick Turpin and the footpads who infested the continental road from London to Dover, especially that portion of it extending from Crayford to Shooters Hill, the fraternity of armed freebooters have ceased to be the dread of travellers. The followers of Turpin have deserted that daring profession, and taken up with the "jemmy" and the dexterous manipulating style of unlawful appropriation, of which Messrs. John Shepherd and David Haggart were the most eminent professors. Highway robbery is neither safe nor profitable in England. But, wherever the conditions exist, armed robbers will crop up as plentifully as ever they did in the good old days when the Georges were kings. The astounding audacity which distinguishes modern outlawry seems to countenance the theory that mere secular education, while it quickens the intellect, does not inferentially purify the heart, else a college-bred bushranger might be set down as a phenomenon. Just about the time of the Ballarat riots the peaceful and flourishing town of Geelong was, one summer evening, thrown into a state of unwopted excitement by the hue and cry raised by the pursuit of the most intrepid and famous bushranger who ever took to the road in the colony of Victoria. His deeds as an equestrian and a robber would have excited the envy of Turpin himself. He had ventured from his forest haunt to visit some friends in Geelong *incog.* Some friend put the detectives on the scent, who paid a visit to his domicile; but getting the hint, he barricaded the door, made his exit by a back window, and had a clear start of the enemy, which, as he was unencumbered, enabled him to gain on his pursuers in the race; which being through the centre of the town, and close

past my own warehouse door, soon became exciting, especially when it became known that the fugitive was Captain Melville, who, from his knowledge of the locality, instinctively made for the "dam," a small watering place for horses, one of whose riders he dexterously unseated, and in a tangent was in the vacant saddle, and would have been off if his newly appropriated "Black Bess" would have taken him; but she could not do it; her fetlocks had sunk deep in the mud of the water's margin, and this untoward detention, caused by a little mud, was the fatal incident which closed the marauding career of this too famous freebooter.

Melville, with the prefix "Captain," was an assumed name, which he adopted for his kindred's sake. There hung a mystery about this young man and his mode of warfare with the objects of his covetous solicitude, which he studiously endeavoured to maintain. He was an excellent horseman, and gifted with marvellous intuition as a bushman. He knew what is called the "lay" of a country as if by instinct, and would have made a capital explorer if his talents had fortunately been directed that way. He would make his way through the labyrinths of a trackless forest, and, guided by the sun and moon, emerge upon the environs of some settler's station, and add to his deeds of daring the feat of "sticking-up" all hands single-handed, covering them severally with one of the revolvers with which his leatherne girdle was furnished; and after assisting himself to all the cash he could find by compelling the inmates to reveal the spot of its concealment, and refreshing himself with furnishings from what the larder and cupboard could afford, walk to the paddock, making some out-door hand carry his traps, and

select the best horse he could find, leaving the jaded one which had brought him thither instead. He was, either from inclination or policy, a solitary man. He would have no companions. Rogues might fall out, and the result of honest folk getting their own might get him his own too, which he had a shrewd notion would be grief or the gallows. It was for such-like performances as these that Melville was captured, tried, and sentenced to thirty-two years' penal servitude; and if the perpetrators of penal crime could realize in their minds what the term implies, they would pause on the threshold which opens to it, and summoning up all the powers of their remaining better nature, make one great continuous effort to conquer the disposition, which, if allowed to triumph, will infallibly land them in a gulf of mental and bodily sufferings, aggravated often by the infliction of tortures at the instance of keepers, whose feelings are blunted and whose hearts are rendered callous by the demoralizing routine of their unenviable duties. Melville had passed above three years of his term when, being at the time under discipline in one of the convict hulks at Williamston, near Melbourne, he, with above half a dozen fellow-prisoners employed in rowing one of the small boats attached to the convict hulk *Lysander*, made a daring effort to escape. The boat they were in was under the supervision of Mr. Owen Owen, a warden. They watched their opportunity when Owen had stepped out, and were making off. The faithful warden took to the water after the boat, got hold of it, and would have been into its stern sheets but for a series of death-blows dealt with a stone-breaker's hammer, or a boat-hook, by one or more of the criminals, by which he was savagely slaughtered and drowned. The convicts were captured

and brought to trial, which, from the notoriety of the chief actor in the attempted escape, and the nature of the double crime for which he and his associates were indicted, excited great interest. I succeeded, by a letter from an influential quarter to Mr. Claude Ferrie, the sheriff, in getting admission to the court, which, being crowded, I could only find a seat on a bench immediately behind Dr. Sewell, the public prosecutor, and the leading members of the bar; two of whom, Dr. Mackay and Mr. Irland, had offered their services gratis to Melville, who, as the supposed ringleader, was tried first, and singly. He, however, declined, and elected to conduct his own defence, which he did in a manner so affecting and strategical as to baffle and break down the prosecution. Notwithstanding the slight which the barristers who had volunteered to defend him might have been supposed to have felt, they gradually, as the case proceeded, had their interest in him reawakened, and, through the kind offices of Mr. M'Gregor, a solicitor, who in that capacity assisted the prisoner, suggested points to Melville which might have escaped him. The address which he made to the jury was the most remarkable I ever heard, and affected them so much with its details of cruel, vindictive, and exquisite sufferings, which some convicts, himself in particular, were subjected to, as to make it evident that, except the prosecution could produce rebutting evidence, the impression he had produced would not be without its effect in the finding of the verdict. The drama, as pictured by the prisoner, was of too powerful a cast to fail by anything less potent than some new representation of the terms of the indictment; but instead of that he tore it to tatters in his cross examination of the chief witness for the crown.

They afforded Melville openings by the manner in which he countered them, of which he again and again dexterously availed himself. The audacity of his style, one would have thought, might have endangered his case by the recoil which the severity of the answers of the witnesses to his questions might have provoked. But no; the effect of his manœuvring was that which, it is believed, follows the irritation induced by gladiatorial strategy when practised in the forum or the ring. Thus, to the chief warder in the witness box—

“What is your name, sir?”

“Name!” stammers out the incredulous-looking warder, as if forgetting that his interrogator was not at that very moment under the silent system. “I think you should know my name pretty well.”

“Never mind what I know, or what I think. Recollect, sir, where you are. I want the jury, who are scrutinizing you, to know your name, and as much more about you as I think the ends of justice require;” and the reluctant official surrendered his name to the iron-fettered defender of his own life, which a less skilful fencer might have forfeited.

“Now, I want to know what you do?”

“Do!” stared the stern disciplinarian, as if he were thinking that Melville, who had been so often through his hands, of all the men in the world should have been the very last to put such a supererogatory question as that.

“Yes,” continued the close-cropped convict; “your profession, you know! The jury may wish to know by what means you earn your living.”

The astonished respondent replied that he was chief warder connected with her Majesty’s convict hulk *Lysander*.

“ Well, then, being an officer in the service of her Majesty, you will, of course, have had the benefit of a good education. Can you read ? ”

This seemed evidently too much for the rising gorge of the wearer of the blue and white uniform, who looked to the judge in a manner which, if his countenance expressed his feelings, were, that it would be an infraction of dignity to reply to such impertinence, and was hesitating, when his enemy in the dock, who had never received quarter at his hands, and was determined to give none, provokingly enlightened the halting witness by informing him that the court would very soon make him answer, on which he sullenly said—“ Yes.”

“ Now, if you please, keep your temper : “ can you say the Lord’s Prayer ? ” “ Yes.”

“ Say it, then.”

But the confounded warder, either from not being gifted with a very retentive memory, or not knowing exactly in what part of the book he had so recently kissed to look for it, appeared nonplussed. Melville, cunningly appearing to sympathize with him, looking towards the jury, said, “ Well, seeing you cannot repeat the Lord’s Prayer, I will not insist on it; but I expect you will be able to repeat the Ten Commandments, or if not, the ninth.” But this important item of the Decalogue seemed, as far as the memory of the subdued witness was concerned, to have gone the same way as the model petition, and the elated captain said it for him.

The counsel for the crown, no doubt seeing the effect which this kind of work was likely to produce, appealed to the judge (Molesworth) to shield the prosecution from such an unusual style of brow-beating and confounding

witnesses ; to which Melville, before the judge could, replied, that seeing the rope was round his neck, the court would not refuse him the right of eliciting the truth in the way he might think the most effectual, especially as he very much doubted if the witness knew the purpose and solemnity of an oath. He did not know the ninth commandment, on which the whole matter turned ; and he would prove before he was done that other witnesses had borne false testimony against him ; and although unhappily under his present circumstances he could not presume to rank as a neighbour, he would take the liberty of reminding the crown, who had just implored the court to shield the prosecution, that the prosecuted also expected that the same shield would be raised in his defence. Resuming the examination, he quietly asked the heckled warder if he could write ?

“ Yes.”

Melville then requested an officer of the court to show witness a boat-hook which he (Melville) pointed to ; which being done, the prisoner amid profound silence calmly and firmly advised witness to take time. “ My fate,” he said, “ will in a great part depend on the answer you may give ; you have sworn that you will speak the truth,” and then with sudden vehemence demanded of him to speak it. “ Is that boat-hook you have now in your hand the *Lysander’s* boat-hook ? ” A pause. “ Take your time, if you have any doubt ; but see that you speak the truth.” Quietly and respectfully the pale and anxious witness said, “ Yes, it is !

Although I was not aware of it, this was the turning-point of the trial, if the prisoner could handle it well.*

* On searching the boat after the capture, there was nothing found in it by which Owen Owen could have received his death wound. Some one found a

“Now, sir, you have solemnly sworn that the boat-hook you have still in your hand, belongs to the *Lysander*. Officer, hand witness that *other* boat-hook;” which being done, the twitching nervous convict gathering himself up for the effort, but with renewed confidence, charged the witness to say if that which he now held in his hand was not the *Lysander's*; who replied, “that it was not.”

“Did you ever see it before?”

“Yes!”

“Did you ever swear that it was?”

“No!”

“You have sworn that you can write, so I suppose you will know your own handwriting. Tell the jury if that is your signature?” at the same time passing over to him the depositions.

“Yes, it is!”

“Is it set forth in the depositions, and to which your signature is appended, that the boat-hook you now hold in your hand is the *Lysander's*?”

“It is!”

“Were the depositions read over to you before you swore to them and attached your name?”

“Yes, they were!”

“You may go down now;” and the discomfited witness left the box.

At this point the leading counsel for the Crown addressed the court at some length on some legal point which the depositions contained. The above is a mere

boat-hook floating on the water, and in their eagerness to convict, the warders deposed that it was the *Lysander's*. After the depositions had been issued the right boat-hook of the *Lysander* was found, and on the cross-examination, sworn to.

epitome of the proceedings thus far, and although I write from memory, I feel confident that my statement is circumstantially and verbatim correct. It was now far on in the evening. There had been many long pauses, during which Mr. Macgregor passed several memorandum notes from Dr. Mackay, Mr. Irland, and myself to the prisoner, whose position in the dock was within four or five yards from where I was sitting. It became necessary now to prompt Melville cautiously. Dr. Sewell's speech was intended to reconcile the discrepancy between the depositions and the *viva voce* evidence of the witness-box, and after a good deal of fencing (in which Mr. Wyatt, another leading barrister, took part, by referring to the law as well as to the testimony, for which Judge Molesworth thanked him), the writer, still in whispering confab with the barristers, proposed that Melville should put the matter in this form: "If there had been no second boat-hook found would you still have sworn that the boat-hook found first belonged to the *Lysander*?" "Yes, that's it," they said, "and let that be the last question;" which was agreed to. The witness was recalled. By this time the interest in the crowded court was intense. The climax was reached. The prisoner, whose daring crimes as a robber merited reprobation, had become from his effective recitation of the sufferings which he and others had been subjected to on board the hulks, an object of deep sympathy; and although no advocate of his cause could have produced the effect which his harangue and cross-questioning did, he had latterly and willingly yielded to the suggestions which the learned gentlemen whose services he had formerly declined, offered, and eagerly awaited the note from Mr. Macgre-

gor containing the question, and the admonition to let it be the last, which he received and perused eagerly. He acknowledged its importance and advice by a nod of recognition towards the quarter from which it emanated, and put the question verbatim, to which the witness answered in the affirmative: on which, in tones deep, loud, and vehement, with defiant gesticulation, the felon exclaimed, "Then, if there had been no second boat-hook found, you would have perjured yourself and sent me to the gallows, which perhaps I care less for than I do for the twenty-eight years' sufferings I have to return to;" and throwing the depositions which he held in his hand in the direction of the counsel for the Crown, demanded of the bench if he was to be hanged on such evidence as that? A negative shake of the head, waving the pendulous curls of his cumbrous wig, indicated without a doubt what the tenor of the charge by the judge to the jury would be; who after the summing up retired to consider their verdict, about which there were still grave misgivings on the part of many.

Every eye was now fixed on the wearied prisoner, who had commenced eating some bread which the prison dietary scale allowed him. Melville had been a dandy in his day. He dressed smartly, and when tried for the offence for which he was now under penal servitude, was neat and handsomely done up, and wore his kid gloves with the airs of a gentleman. But what a contrast now! His closely cropped hair, shaven face, bare neck, coarse shirt, canvas jacket and trousers, minus waistcoat, prison fare, the acute gnawings of hunger, countenance marred and lined with lengthened incarceration and rigorous discipline, the reflections of a hopeless captivity, and his position in the dock with his immediate

attendants—these gave a stamp of character to the man which sympathy for his aggravated sufferings, anxiety for his fate, and all the eclat of his romantic career could not efface, although there was still a lingering something about him which told of better things. The jury acquitted him of the offence on which he had been arraigned. The story of his remaining days is soon told. He returned to his cell to endure physical tortures and mental anguish to a degree which made life a burden ; and becoming a prey to despair, he effected his escape from his baffled, mortified, and remorseless tormentors at a moment when they were off their guard, through the portals of death, to “where the wicked cease from troubling, and where the weary are at rest.”

Having returned to Australia, and seven years after the event I have been recording, while passing through the bar of the Globe Inn, “Mount Gambier” on the Adelaide side of the borders of South Australia and Victoria, a man stepped out from a group of sheep-shearers and other pastoral and agricultural labourers, and accosted me, saying that he knew me, and wished to speak with me privately. Thinking that perhaps he wanted me to “shout,” I assured him he was mistaken, but he as earnestly assured me of his sincerity. We then went into a private room, when he informed me that he had walked above 100 miles to be present at Melville’s trial, and observing the interest I took in the case, my conversations with the barristers, and the notes I passed to Melville by the hands of Mr. Macgregor, thought I was either connected with the courts or that I was some special friend or relation of the prisoner, and that he tried to see me when leaving the court, but being in the gallery he could not get down in time.

Being a decent pensive man and from various incidents in the trial which he mentioned, I had no hesitation in fully believing what he told me of

MELVILLE'S EARLY LIFE.

My informant, with whom I had many opportunities of conversing afterwards, and to whom I gave a day or two's work occasionally, with great reluctance, and only because I had taken such an interest in the case of his early friend, gave me the history of a career with which his own was at one time identified; which shows how very soon the initial *swervings* from the paths of rectitude and honour, if not checked, will *sway* the votaries of youthful follies to a pitch which may make the recovery of balance a task too great for the enfeebled physical and moral powers to effect. Melville and his friend, whom I shall call Frater, the one hailing from Forfarshire and the other from Perthshire, were at the Edinburgh College together, and were companions and bed-fellows. They took to courses which were incompatible with their studies and pursuits for life. They led fast lives, got involved, Frater became a cavalry soldier, where, under the influence of discipline and diligence, he recovered his liberty and self-respect, and is now an industrious, honest (though life-blighted), contented man. Melville—better by far that he had enlisted too—found his way to Australia, where following the course which the commencement of his career too ominously indicated; by consorting with the gambling and the gay; vieing with the votaries of vanity and vice; frequenting the bazaars and auction yards, in some of whom sinister-looking horses and horsey men characteristically congregate; and keeping up appearances which he had no visible means

of honestly maintaining—soon fell into courses and crimes which ended as the reader has been informed, blasted his own life, and blighted the hopes of the highly respectable domestic and social circles which by natural gifts and education he was expected to adorn.

The bush-rangers who so long infested New South Wales—Gardner, Hall, Gilbert, Morgan, and others—were blood-thirsty murderers as well as robbers, which they perpetrated with seeming impunity, and with much long-suffering, if not with complicity, on the part of some whose business it was to track and exterminate the assassins. Official persons were accused of remissness or incapacity; and it was asserted that some of them, pretty high up the official ladder, winked at the crimes which were making Sydney notorious. Not so with the administration of justice in Victoria. If the saying of the President (Grant) of the United States, “that the rigid execution of obnoxious laws is the most effectual way of obtaining their repeal,” be an epigrammatic embodiment of a philosophical truth, the colony of Victoria will not be distinguished for the perpetuation of enactments which may be found to be incompatible with the developments of a high condition of progressive civilization. Her statute books are already the records of enlightened legislation in many of its most fostering features. The political and civil enfranchisement of the people, the freedom and independent action of her elections, education, and the guarantees for the security of life and property for which her administrative vigilance is distinguished, afford pleasing evidence that, although the rigorous and impartial execution of the laws may sometimes involve painful sacrifices of feeling, the comfort, safety, and prosperity of the community, in all

its ultimate relations, are the prime aim of her vigorous executive principles.

Morgan, of New South Wales notoriety, whose nature, haunts, and habits class him more as a wild man of the woods than as a civilized being, and whose career of blood was more protracted than that of any who preceded or succeeded him, was circumvented and died the death he had so often dealt to others, as soon as he ventured within the Victorian border. It was an extra-judicial act, and was severely criticized at the time, and according to the letter of the law not without reason; as although he was proscribed and proclaimed an outlaw in New South Wales, he had not been declared so in Victoria. But as society was rid of a being who was more a monster than a man, the approving voice of the public was considered a sufficient bill of indemnity for the act, but which should not be repeated.

CONDON AND HIS BUSH-RANGING COMRADES.

In sailing one day between Geelong and Melbourne, I saw on board the steamer three youths, whose leader, named Condon, emulating the exploits of Melville, had latterly attempted to waylay in the bush Mr. Rutherford, a settler; and although he got off scathless, the footpads were guilty of a capital offence, and notwithstanding several circumstances which were urged in their favour, were executed. Their trial and execution excited more than ordinary interest. They were young, were well connected; they had not committed murder. Condon, when asked by the judge if he had anything to say why sentence of death should not be pronounced on him, in the course of an animated speech said, that he had never drawn a trigger against a human being in his

life; but if he was to die, he implored the judge, in earnest, eloquent strains, to hang him publicly, and not within the precincts of the jail. This was the first case of capital punishment being inflicted privately, twelve years since: and the horror with which Condon contemplated this circumstance of death seemed actually to take stronger hold on him than the terrors of death itself, and he pled again and again that the execution should be public. The judge, deeply moved, in passing sentence deplored the fact, and wondered at it, that a young man possessed of such fine talents and high intellectual acquirements, should have brought himself and his two unfortunate companions to such an ignominious end.

I had an opportunity of scrutinizing the youthful malefactors very closely. Being a passenger on board the steamer which brought them from Geelong to Melbourne, I observed that when passing along the gangway the heavy irons with which they were fettered prevented them from reaching the far end without assistance, and it was with difficulty they tardily got up on the open cart which was waiting for them. His two associates wore an emaciated, subdued appearance, but Condon himself was flushed and feverish with excitement—biting and crunching a piece of cavendish as a victim at the triangles does with a leaden ball during his agony; and away went the cart with the doomed victims of a diseased romantic ascendancy.

That this is the case with some of them, the following case which occurred about three years (1866) ago, seems to affirm. A young man with his sister, well bred and respectably brought up, smart, genteel, and obliging, he soon became, during the passage out, a favourite with the passengers, and his own pride, if not theirs, to the

great extent which his besetting sin (vanity) prompted him to believe. He had not been long in Melbourne until he became fired with the heroic deeds performed by the assassinating marauders of New South Wales; and, charmed with the romance in real life which such a speedy method of acquiring fortune as the simple robbing of a mail coach offered, resolved to become a bush-ranger. He, too, would be a Sherwood Forester; and so the young Robin Hood took to the glades in the neighbourhood of Melbourne, without counting the cost of isolated rural retirement. He had a stomach, not so much for fighting as for eating; and faithfully obeying its monitions, he betook himself one morning afoot, with his revolver in hand, to a secluded, comfortable settlement, snugly situated in a corner called Diamond Creek, the property of two young men and their only sister; I forget the name, but think it was Adams. Both of the gentlemen were away about their business, and so the tyro freebooter went very coolly about his, which was, in the first place, to table his revolver, and secondly, to inform Miss Adams that he wanted his breakfast, to which the good-natured young lass offered no objection; and on placing on the table what she had prepared for him, he wanted to know if that was a suitable meal for him, and that he would have a better breakfast than that, or else—. Just at this moment one of the brothers came in, and seeing a stranger there and a pistol on the table, and something like an altercation between his sister and the youth, suspecting the character of his visitor, stepped over to an outhouse for his loaded gun, with which he returned to the kitchen, where he stood and questioned Burke (whose real name was M'Lusky), who felt his dignity as a bush-ranger offended, and

quarrelled with his breakfast; and therewith Mr. Adams laid hold on M'Lusky, on which they closed and fell at the threshold of the door, and rolled and writhed, and both being young muscular men, the struggle became desperate and doubtful. Adams, it is thought, got hold of the gun, which M'Lusky endeavoured to seize, when the piece went off, lodging the charge in the body of Adams, where he lay mortally wounded, and soon died.

It was contended for the prisoner at the trial that it was only manslaughter, but this view of the case was not sustained. When brought to the scaffold, the culprit on the noose being adjusted, in a half-swooning state sobbed, in scarcely articulate utterance, in low mournful accents, to the usual air of Elliot's pathetic hymn—

‘ Just as I am, without one plea,
But that Thy blood was shed for me,
And that Thou bid’st me come to Thee,
O Lamb of God, I come; ’

and he fell into the arms of the executioner and of the last enemy with the last words, unuttered, hanging on his lips. The singing of the hymn was in obedience to the pious wish of his only (orphan) sister. A short course to run, but sufficiently long to exhibit the difference of spirit which marks the deportment of the bravo at the outset of his career and the subdued humility of its tragic end.

In each of the cases I have noticed, great efforts were made to obtain commutation of the capital sentence, but without effect. The chief members of the government constitute themselves into a court of ultimate appeal; and indeed, in all cases, whether appealed to or not,

they meet a few days before the day appointed for any capital execution, to ratify the sentence and fix the time for carrying it into effect; and if good cause be shown, to recommend to the governor the exercise of the prerogative of the crown in favour of the doomed. But the instances are rare indeed where the crown interposes; a few flagrant cases—one in particular, connected with the murder of a sea-captain in Geelong—excepted, execution of the sentence is almost sure to follow the verdict of the jury. It does not follow from this that justice is not as scrupulously done, and that judicial regard for human life is not as prominent a characteristic of the *ermine* in Victoria, as it is in London, Edinburgh, or Dublin. The case of Melville is one in point; but there is a stricter impartiality in regard to the disposal of malefactors. There is a more deaf ear turned to importunities emanating from influential quarters. The quality of mercy is more strained in its application than less conscientious functionaries of state would find it convenient to practise; and the consequence to those members of the executive whose duty it is to decide on such momentous matters is, that they are relieved from all painful or misgiving reflections. The fate of the culprit has been determined by a jury of his peers, and the fiat of the judge; and if these are superseded, it is not by an exercise of mercy, but the performance of a duty, on superadded evidence paramountly admissible, or reasons unequivocally set forth. The effect of this impartiality on the popular mind is of a healthy and re-assuring character. The people see that there is not one administration of law for the rich and another for the poor. A case occurred while I was in Melbourne, two or three years ago, which

forcibly proves this. A road contractor named Harrison shot a man dead, who was or had been his partner, in open day. He was found guilty and condemned. His social position gathered round him many influential friends, who, marshalled by his son, stormed the citadel of government with petitions in favour of clemency—for commutation as a matter of justice; arguing from the fact that as the deed was done in public and in the daytime, that the unfortunate man was insane. The columns of the press were liberally used by the parties pro and con. The public mind became excited, and its voice loud and discordant. And as in the case of Dr. Johnson's memorial, affirming the *vox populi vox Dei* principle in favour of Dr. Dodd, to George III.; which the imperturbable monarch disregarded with the *vox populi* ringing in his ears, on the plea suggested by his Queen, that if he spared Dodd's life, then he had murdered the two brothers (foreigners), who had been recently hanged for the same sort of crime—forgery; the ministry gave ear to the voice of justice, especially as there were other two notorious malefactors under the same condemnation, who were to expiate their crimes on the same scaffold, and who had not succeeded in their attempt to murder, and in regard to whom no sympathy was expressed nor memorial presented. The law took its course. Justice was satisfied, and so was the bulk of the people after timely reflection. It is not implied that the punishment of death under any circumstances is an institution which should not be abolished. That it will be as sure as the progress of enlightenment on all matters pertaining to the value of human life and its issues is undeniable; and the hope may safely be indulged that the vigorous impartiality with which the

awards of the criminal courts of Victoria are administered, will result in the gradual discovery that other and more effectual penalties for the prevention of crime should supersede the unnatural and unscriptural punishment of death; and in this respect should vindicate the aphorism in which President Grant so pithily indicates the rule by which the functions of his high office will be exercised.

A PRISONER IN BOTANY BAY.

The uncertainty of the localities where friends could be found, caused many new arrivals to advise the objects of their search by advertizing. The numbers doing so soon made it a feature in the proper column of the Melbourne newspapers, on perusing which one day I was agreeably surprised to find that a friend had arrived in Sydney, and that he was to be found at Shoalhaven, on the coast of New South Wales. This was too far to travel to welcome even a special friend, without some other errand; but which I soon made for the occasion. Shoalhaven is as famous for its maize as Woolongong, lying in the same direction, is for its butter. Of all the cereals grown in Australia, maize fluctuates most in price. The consumption, especially when oats were dear, was great. It was a ticklish article to tamper with; so I resolved, if possible, to buy in the cheapest market, which was on the spot where it was grown: and to see my friend, and how the land lay with Indian corn, I took steamer for Sydney, and met some rough usage on the passage, especially when turning Wilson's Promontory—a cape on the coast, which like all promontories and capes, forms points for the fury of the wind to play over; which it often does in the way of havoc to

ships and other craft which have to encounter its more furious onslaughts. Our craft was not of sufficient calibre to enable us to fly in the face of a gale which was in full blow at the time we approached the stormy cape, but which we passively weathered by laying-to; a species of rest—if such a phrase can be appositely applied to a ship riding the waves—effected by reversing the position of the sails in an angular form; as one may understand who has never observed it, by placing the heels of his hands together in a horizontal position, and bending his palms back as far as he can: a triangle will be formed, against the sides of which the wind strikes with equal force, giving a compensating power to the one on the foremast against its fellow on the main or other mast, as the case may be; the one urging the ship forward and the other backward, by which it is kept steady with its head to the sea until the fury of the gale be spent; which in this instance it soon was, as we shaped to our course before break of day, which dawned on a rock-bound coast of a very rigorous character. Leviathan was playing in the deep, not far from our course, whose spouting here and there afforded opportunities of judging of the strength of their lungs by the height to which the water was thrown. At Twofold Bay, on this part of the coast, there is a whaling station, at which we called on our return to pick up the captain and crew of a fine ship which had been recently wrecked in the neighbourhood; thus affording me a chance of visiting another of those out-of-the-way parts of the world which fate or fortune has so often offered me. The bold bald headlands which form a sort of gateway to the bays with which these rocky shores are indented, enabled us to single out Port Jackson from the charac-

teristic features they presented; and the wonder is that Captain Cook, with his fine nautical and geographical genius, should have failed to make it, instead of Botany —from which it is only distant ten or twelve miles by sea. A few days after reaching Sydney, I went aboard of a small steamer—the *Phœnix*—bound for Wollongong, Kiama, and Shoalhaven, at ten o'clock on a dark wet night, when all appeared calm and unruffled. My destination was Shoalhaven, to visit my friend and the crops. I went below to the saloon, but felt uneasy in consequence of certain motions and whisperings among the hands; which feeling was increased when, after about an hour's sailing down the harbour, the engines were stopped and the anchor slipped. On making inquiry as to the cause, I learned that we were waiting to see if the *Kiama*, another small coasting steamer which had sailed a short time before us, was weathering the gale which, although we felt it not in that safest and most capacious of havens in this *fleeting* world, was tearing and tossing with the violence of a tornado outside. Like Sterne's starling I wanted to get out, but that was impossible. We got occasional glimpses of the *Kiama's* light bobbing up and down on the heights and in the hollows of the tormented sea; and after a considerable interval without any more signs of the fluctuating light, the skipper concluded that the *Kiama* was breasting the storm, and if she could, he would not for a moment have it said that the *Phœnix* was afraid. So up came the anchor and everything made taut on board. The plucky little *Phœnix*, like a confident pugilist stripped to the buff to meet his antagonist, made for the Heads, out of which she emerged with her broadside to the wind;

which she no sooner smelt, than, as if struck with an Armstrong pounder, she recoiled and groaned and pitched and tossed in a manner which threatened to, and did, turn everything upside down; and which, in a description of this kind, is a very modest phrase to use. The lights of the *Kiama*, like an illusive spunkie, allured us into a path on which we should not have ventured. Finding that she could not weather the gale, she ran from it into some nook in which she could find shelter from its merciless fury. It was this recourse of the fugitive *Kiama* which led our skipper a dance which the writer will not soon forget. I was lying on an upper side bench, perusing the pictures of the *Illustrated News* as well as the pendulous swayings of the saloon lamp and the shocks of the thudding waves against the walls of the little ship would permit, when I heard the operation of battening down going on. Fortunately for my peace I did not know the worst; we were drifting, or rather being driven, towards the impracticable shore, when, after much anxiety, all became calm and still. The companion door opened and the stewardess descended, giving audible expression of her thanks to the Overseer of all things, that we were in. "In where?" I eagerly inquired, at the same moment starting up from my recumbent position:—

IN BOTANY BAY, SIR, SAID SHE!

"Indeed! and how long do you think we will be detained here?" "Until the gale is over," she replied; but when the gale would be over she could not hazard a guess. I was now joined by one of the other two saloon passengers in making further inquiries about our detention, about which he seemed as much concerned as I was. On

reaching deck we made up to the skipper, to make proposals to get ashore, but he would not hearken to our appeal, and wondered that we could expect it from any of his men, who had not been below the whole night, and who had yet so much on hand to do. We were anchored under the lee of the hilly range, in the anchorage where Captain Cook first brought up, and were seven miles from the opposite shore of the bay we wished to get to. The morning was raw and Scotch misty, and the waves breaking on the bar, and on the huge posterns of the gate by which we entered, billowed along the bay in smooth waving rollers. We both looked to the little "dingy" hanging from the stern davits, the only small boat on board, doubting its fitness for our contemplated journey across. The storm might continue a couple of days, a week, or a fortnight, which it did; and as my friend and self were resolved after breakfast to get ashore if possible, the sun breaking through the cloud-capt atmosphere encouraged us to renew our appeal to the captain, who said, if we chose to risk it, and if we could get any of the men after their work was done to take charge of the boat, he would not object; and we ultimately stipulated with the mate and two of his men for the sum of 30s.; when, after a good deal of fash and fike, the shabby-looking bark was lowered, and we started, after getting trimmed with the two oarsmen forward, and the weather-stained mate at the helm. There was little or no danger, although I felt queer sometimes with the quick descent of the boat from the top of a wave down into the trough of the sea. Not so my companion, who sat on the gunwale of the little dingy like a well tried sailor, which in one sense he was; he had seen much of sea life; he was at the time, and had been for the greater part of his useful life,

a missionary; he had been stationed at the Fiji and other islands of the Pacific, and was at the time of our adventure engaged in the same arduous and honourable work among the sailors in the harbour of Port Jackson, visiting them in his own small boat from ship to ship with gratifying success. His conversation was entertaining and instructive. The information which his knowledge of the localities and regions round about enabled him to give me, was thankfully received. He replied to my question how Captain Cook's ship, which, from its tonnage, must have drawn at least twelve feet, could get over that bar which our *Phœnix* with difficulty managed with a draught of five feet, that he must have entered at flood tide, while we were shoved over on the crest of a wave at ebb water. It was far on in the afternoon before we landed, which we did drenched with the drizzle and spray; but we were amply satisfied with things convenient for us in Beaumont's fine hotel, the only house of entertainment in all that quarter, which we reached by a gravel pathway through parts of his zoological and botanical gardens, which, with the style and character of his establishment, attract the pic-nic, gipsy-going, wedding, and other celebration parties from Sydney and suburbs, in sufficient numbers to indemnify him. After paying our seamen, and supplying them with what their outward condition seemed to require, and for which they expressed their sense of gratitude with a warmth which was perhaps stimulated by the attractions which the barmaid so gracefully furnished, we conveyed them down to their boat, and advised them to head and shape right for the steamer, which, in consequence of the thickness of the weather, could not be seen. Being assured that the gale would

continued for several days at least. I made arrangements to remain at the hotel from Saturday until Monday. My friend the missionary invited me to go with him to a church under his superintendence a short way off, which I gladly did, and was gratified with the reception we had from its venerable sentinel, whom the Wesleyan Society had placed on this solitary watch tower. His thin-white locks, time-scarred countenance, elongated clear visage, look forth with his open Bible, on which lay his gold-mounted spectacles, invested him with an aspect which would have commanded reverential homage from natures less disposed to render it than ours. After arrangements were made for the services of worship for the morrow, which my fellow traveller was to conduct, and which I was invited to attend, and partaking of the lay preacher's afternoon meal, I left the two faithful fellow labourers, and returned to the hotel, where I was grieved to find my boat's crew had returned, and were half-seas-over, when they should have been that distance and more over the bay in the direction of the steamer. They had dipped into the thirty shillings, between which and the bar till there seemed to be too strong an affinity. I stopped the tap against them, and ordered a dinner, after finishing which they returned with me to the boat. By this time the wind had increased, and their due course was right in its eye, which caused them to work round by the shore, in doing which they had to cross the mouth of Cook's River, which flows into the bay. I saw them start, but doubted much if they could reach the ship from the state of the weather. I was the only wayfarer at the hotel, in consideration of which I was the subject of attentions which under other circumstances could not have been ~~unfriendly~~ bestowed. I passed the time very pleasantly,

and, with access to Mr. Beaumont's selected library and as ready ingress to the gardens, I was enabled to acquire some useful knowledge. If not, it was from no lack of the means which books, beasts, birds, trees, fruits, flowers, and aquatic and quack-quackick plants and fowls offered to supply. The weather still continuing unfavourable, the Sabbath morning was spent in appropriate reading, inducing a frame of mind which it is so desirable and profitable to acquire. I was in the midst of a solitude distinguished by a designation whose associations were aforetime the subject of many a mother's bitter anguish; the very name of Botany Bay being identified with that primitive retribution which was the award of the disobedient and backsliding contemners of parental admonition, and of indurated vice and atrocious criminality. The peace which reigned all round, and which even the performance of the inevitable duties of the hotel was not loud enough to disturb, gave to the contemplative moments of the blessed and bliss-procuring Sabbath their native ascendancy; and the hallowed influences which that peace lent to the preparation for attendance on the appointed ordinances for which the day of rest is set apart, enhanced the feelings of devotion which the exercises of the sanctuary are so powerfully calculated to intensify. For the solitary sojourner at the inn, with the gatherings of the scattered population, these exercises were to be conducted; and the glad tidings were to be proclaimed by the attached companion of his recent short but perilous voyage, and the sanctuary was the small stone chapel. A table in the wilderness, situated in the bosom of the neighbouring bush, the approach to which by a narrow path formed in the sandy soil through the fluctuating brushwood, gave it a rural and primitive simplicity, which well

accorded with the occupations of the worshippers, and the unostentatious character of the worship. When bidding adieu to the venerable shepherd, whose little flock had just been dismissed by the faithful superintendent who assisted and sustained him in his mission work, and to whom also I had then to say farewell, who could refrain from wishing them good speed and blessing in the self-denying labour of their lives? If those who sneer at, and utter mercenary objections to missionary enterprize, could realize in their minds the amount of physical and social amelioration, as well as the moral and religious elevation, which the various departments of the missionary phalanx effect, they might reserve their misanthropic animadversions for subjects to which they more aptly apply.

On reaching the inn, these reflections were rudely disturbed on finding my sailors wrecked and wretchedly woe begone. Whatever their course after leaving me was I cannot tell. Their story was, that the boat foundered near the shore, which they were hugging in the darkness and storm not long after passing Cook's River. They were cast away in water shallow enough to enable them to reach the shore; and as this is its nature on that side the bay, I could well believe it. "But where was the boat?" "It had filled and floated into deep water," they said. "How did you re-cross Cook's River without a boat?" "We wandered up and down all the blessed night, until we found the ford miles up," was their rejoinder! The existence of this ford being corroborated by Mrs. Beaumont, I was more willing to believe their story than that they had not passed the river at all. "Well, what do you mean to do? I can do no more for you, except to give you a letter to your owners in Sydney, explaining all about the matter;" which I wrote while they were at the din-

ner I had ordered for them, which they replenished from a source which must have told on the thirty shillings. I was glad I had got rid of them, as they were likely to become a troublesome as well as a heavy handful. They returned on Monday, clean, and suited with cleaned clothes, with a despatch to the captain of the *Phœnix* to take the vessel back to Sydney, and with a letter to the owner of a whale boat somewhere round the shore of the bay to take them on board their steamer, which, perhaps, they regretted leaving, as the price of doing so was, I suppose, nearly all, if not well, spent. I walked to Sydney in the evening; no great feat, if the soil of the road had been anything less tormenting than soft sand.

I gave up all thoughts of going to Shoalhaven. But as I had opened credit at the bank in Sydney, I was determined, if possible, to indemnify myself for my trouble and expense by investing in some other sorts of produce; which I did, and got some information at Petty's Hotel which made me make up my mind, as the population of Geelong was declining fast, and the trade of which had been diverted to Ballarat and other rising townships, to visit the old country. I had, however, another matter on hand, which detained me a fortnight longer in Sydney than I expected, during which I had occasion to visit Parramatta and the country well on to Penrith and the Blue mountains; a delightful trip by rail and omnibus to Parramatta, a lovely town submerged in a flood of flowers and fruit trees. The roads, streets, and many of the buildings, like those of Sydney, Woollomolloo, Balmain, and other enchanting retreats, having been the work of convicts, was done cheap enough: no wonder that some of the people of New South Wales, Queensland, and Western Australia, have

partial leanings towards a modicum of the convict element in their social system. Sydney is a fine enough city, with two or three good streets, and some excellent architectural erections, of which the offices of the *Sydney Morning Herald* is a good specimen. With the exception of its magnificent harbour, and the lightsome rural habitations with which it is fringed, it contains no object of very special interest, the chiefest for me being the church of the Rev. Dr. Lang, the intrepid veteran, who in the cause of humanity and the Protestant religion, has traversed the wide expanse of oceans which separates the continents of Europe and Australia as often, if not oftener, than George Whitefield did to America, in the interest of the cause with which his name and fame will always be associated. I had been introduced to Dr. Lang in Geelong; but hearing him conduct the services in his own church afforded me a feeling of gratification which I desire to keep in continual remembrance. On returning to Melbourne I at once made arrangements to return home by

THE OVERLAND ROUTE,

and secured a passage by the *Columbian* royal mail steam packet, Captain Pender. On reaching King George's Sound, Albany, where we called on our voyage out, I found in the interval of five years a great change in the *personnel* of the natives who roam thereabout, a tribe of about two hundred. They are in their appearance and habits of the most hopelessly abject and unimprovable cast of humanity. The aborigines of the regions of South Australia and Victoria are degraded and repulsive enough; but there is a physique and activity about them, of which the denizens of the woods and wilds of

the Swan River are mostly destitute. The colour of the two former is black, while that of Western Australia is a dark coppery brown, rendered resplendent with copious applications of an oil and clay compost peculiar to the locality. The prominent points of their features are daubed with red and white paints, and their heads are adorned with feathers. The children are in a condition of native nudity, from which the adults, male and female, are only removed by a blanket hanging from their shoulders, or a kangaroo skin from their loins. "Their shanks, like cheeks o' branks," and small frail and calfless legs, are shrunk and powerless by roasting round the blazing logs and red embers of their beehive-shaped mia-mias. They must be perishing quickly, as I saw very few of those I had seen on my first visit. I made particular inquiry after one noble exception to the physically attenuated race. I had one day strolled alone a considerable distance from the village, and saw with some little feeling of insecurity a tall, six-feet, athletic, finely formed man, walking in the stately style of "drum-major," armed with a long spear, meeting me on a sheep track; whose right I did not dispute, and gave him a wide enough berth although near enough to watch his movements; in which I was disappointed, as he moved nothing but his legs, and did not even move his eyes. He was too much concerned about his own dignity to condescend to cast a passing glance—a pardonable feeling, which under the circumstances I was by no means disposed to question. I found on making inquiry that he was chief of the tribe, and a noble, dignified, and peaceable chieftain he appeared to be. The white population is composed chiefly of conditionally liberated convicts and their descendants. The entrance

to the spacious land-locked Sound is narrow, and the channel intricate and difficult; the climate is fine and healthy. Towards the margin of the lake-like harbour there are some considerable patches of crop and fruit bearing soil; in one garden I saw the third crop of potatoes, ripe, within eleven months. The chief source of income is from the fruits and vegetables, with which the intermitting calling vessels are supplied. It is three hundred miles overland from Perth, the capital; the sailing way to which is round Cape Leuin to Port Freemantle and Swan River. The whole region round about King George's Sound is a wilderness. The soil is barren, black, and spongy, yielding a stunted low-growing brushwood, giving cover for the vermillion and emerald coloured feathered tribes, which wantonly abound among the blooming and blowing flowers with which it is perennially garnished. But the birds are mute, giving no song; and the flowers are lifeless exhaling no fragrant odours. At the time of our first visit, when ashore with the Rev. Mr. Young, Wesleyan commissioner to organize the church in Australia, at an evening service, with a few friends we laid the foundation of a village library, that is, of the books which were to form it, by contributing a volume or two each. On returning to the ship—guided in the dark, along the shore and skirting some dense brushwood, by a Mr. Macdonald with a lamp—some natives sprang out of it, and stopped the path, uttering something in their indescribable language, which, with the menacing attitude with which it was spoken, would have been alarming but for the prompt interference of our guide, who at once relieved us of our apprehensions, and afforded another proof of the dominating influence of the white

man when his powers are exercised with energy and intelligence. Mahogany is very plentiful, and may be had for the cutting and lifting, which would neither be difficult nor expensive. The very joists under the floorings of the houses are mahogany. A trade might be formed in this article which would be profitable to all concerned, except there be something peculiar to Honduras which has not yet been revealed Our next point is Galle, in

THE ISLAND OF CEYLON;

which we reached at the time Lord Elgin arrived (although it was not known generally) on his way to China, but who, from private information he had received from the governor general of India of the breaking out of the mutiny, changed his course and that of the army which was on the same route, to the scene of the rebellion, by which opportune assistance he did much to subdue the incipient motions of a far more formidable rising, and whose ramifications extended far beyond the boundaries within which it was at first supposed to be confined. The Cinghalese are, as far as some of us were concerned, a shrewd and thievish race, cheating us without remorse without our perceiving it. Although I have given the particulars of some rough sailing, it does not follow that I have not had a fair share of smooth and pleasant sailing too. The weather since leaving Melbourne had been fine; the management of the *Columbian* under Captain Pender, efficient, unostentatious, and agreeable. The company, from there being only one rate of fare, were for the nonce on terms of social equality, except to those who did not choose to comply with the requirements of an etiquette, the routine preparations for which

gave freshness to the reassemblies of loungers under the poop awning between meals, which agreeably passed the time by the gossip, music, promenading, &c., engaged in, and mingling in which afforded excellent opportunities of remarking on the varied features of character and disposition displayed. Pope avers that

“Order is heaven’s first law, and this confess,
Some are and must be greater than the rest!”

and this held true in the order which reigned in the *Columbian*. The greatness of each in his sphere was acknowledged. Some were great in the great unqualified sense which unadorned wealth and influence assumes; others were great from the political and civic functions they had exercised: one was great in the science of deep mine sinking; another was great in deep thinking that he knew the lead of a gold-gutter better than his neighbour: this was great in the science of scrip, and that was great in his knowledge of a ship—a department of knowledge in which many assume to be very great: a few were great fops, and fewer greater fools if they could see it: there were some great merchants, and at least one great squatter; and in experience, shrewdness, and wealth the greatest of all was the latter. Mr. John Aikenhead—a muscular, lively, little man, over whose head the passing of above sixty winters had produced the similitude of the almond tree flourishing—had left the tending of his father’s flocks upon the Pentland hills to feed his own upon the abounding plains of Australia Felix. John was a pioneer squatter, the patient pastoral training of his early years fitting him admirably for the solitary self-denying labours which the profession of a wool-grower in the early days of its cultivation in New South

Wales demanded; far in the woods unknown to public view, no fruits for food beyond the stinted store of root and cereal crops which his cultivation paddock supplied, no crystal well for drink purer or cooler than the steamy life-teeming water-holes furnished, his home a hut, a veritable hut in the most primitive sense, his neighbours the capricious occupants of the aboriginal mia-mias, and his visitors swarms of the swarthy savages of the woods, whose plundering propensities he had to check by the indiscriminate use of his constantly charged weapons. This life of warfare and social privation the future millionaire lived for the period of sixteen years, until by the increase of his flocks and herds he lengthened his cords and strengthened his stakes, keeping at bay the wild dogs and wilder roamer of the forest by the fatal instrumentalities he unhesitatingly employed. "Aye, and you would civilize them with the Bible, would ye," he said one day when speaking on the practice of shooting down the natives which prevailed, and, I believe, still prevails in some districts to this day. "Gude help ye, man; gie me a guid gun, and poother and shot and plenty o' them, to clear the road, and then ye may follow wi' your Bibles and your single and double questions an' a' if you like. I kent them weel, and maybe ken mair about them yet, and keep the requirements and keep clear o' the forbiddens as weel as, if no better than, some wi' greater pretensions to humanity, and wha hae ne'er been tried wi' the temptation o' defending themsels and their fleece frae the treacherous attacks o' hordes o' wild men, as I hae." This breathless harangue was finished with a nod and a wink addressed to a bystander for whom the cap was intended to fit, and not being prepared for such an effervescent ebullition determined to

meet the onslaught by a charge aimed at the most vulnerable joint in John's harness. Mr. Aikenhead had by well-directed industry, aided by the practical knowledge which his up-bringing afforded, acquired a fortune, and in due time acquired a wife, by whom he had a fine young family, the two eldest of whom were by this time grown-up daughters, and fine young ladies in every respect they were. In addition to the attractions which their native graces offered to the aspirants on board, of which there were a considerable number, for favourable recognition, the acknowledged wealth of their father lent added charms to the accomplishments which the more ambitious of their young fellow-passengers of the opposite sex seemed so intrusively anxious to admire. The displays of gallantry had become inconveniently, and indeed offensively importunate; guesses were made and sums named of the figures which would fall to the lot of the successful wooers of either of them, which any heiress-hunter might have coveted. A goodly number of these speculators having been attracted by the very audible style in which the respected squatter delivered his sentiments on aboriginal civilization, arrived among the small group who were his hearers, just in time to listen to Mr. Ralph Ruff's well-meaning rejoinder to Mr. Aikenhead's pointed allusion to himself in the matter of the Bible and the Larger and Shorter Catechism versus guns and powder, which was to give a hint to the fond parent of the cause of the supernumerary attentions of which the flowers of his domestic flock were the pestered objects, by inquiring how much he was intending to give. "Gie! what for?" inquired the shrewd buyer of rams and lambs. "It is not what for, but what with," was the stomacher which the Pentland shepherd received.

"Wi' what? wi' wha'? wha' do you mean? speak out man," was the rejoinder which the kindling curiosity of the wool-grower gave to this rather puzzling requirement in useful knowledge; "dinna be bird-mouthed," he continued. "Well, Mr. Aikenhead, I hope you will excuse me for interfering in a matter in which I am not immediately concerned; but you will settle a question on which there is a great deal of impertinent speculation, and relieve the anxieties of some nameless aspirants for the hands of your eldest daughters, by naming the sum you intend to dowry them with." Now, Jem Mace is, it is said, a good statuettist, and being a finished gladiator, Ajax defying the lightning, Hercules wielding his club, or Samson unshorn shouldering the gates of Gaza, might find not a bad representative in the slippery pugilist. The late Baron Nathan was a distinguished posture-master while doing the duties of his office at his gala booth at Rosherville; but it is questionable if either Jem the gymnast or the imperturbable calisthenic professor could transfix themselves with the marvellous naturalness with which the incensed Australian's person assumed the statuesque. Just shaving the deck planking with the ball of his right foot with the nervous motion of drawing it back, and on which his centre of gravity was at once thrown, with his arms locked and embracing his labouring breast; eating his nether lip with a sort of cannibalistic gusto, without moving his head, or his body, or a muscle, other than the masticating process referred to brought into action; with his eyes traversing and circling their sockets, surveyed his interrogator's body from head to feet, and from feet to shoulders, at which point of elevation his piercing eyeballs became fixed, and fastening them on the features

at the adviser with glance of keenest scrutiny, relinquishing his unceasing pressure on the quivering lip, and changing the immobility of his facial expression, with a faint smile and over-lip with upward curl, while closing it, and placing both of his hands on the shoulders of the object of his contempt, gave relief to his pent-up breast by uttering two monosyllables not intentionally profane, which are often used in sudden ejaculations of surprise, or in the drawling expression of needless contempt; and in tones which indicated the insincerity of the latter feeling, advised the subject of his purpose around his ain business, which might thrive rare the want o' his guid, and no tae put himself o' the way o' matters that did no' concern him;" which advice would have been pertinent enough if the adviser had not just done the very thing he deprecated, and whilst his impulsive fellow-passenger, with a freedom which his otherwise unimposing demeanour belied, seemed glad of the wished opportunity to repay. There was little difficulty, after an apologetic explanation by Mr. Ross in having the terms of mutual amenities re-established, and which soon ripened into a friendship of a very pleasing character; for the shepherd, although something a little temer in his temper, had a bark almost exceeding enough when his domain was invaded afforded no indication of the kindness of his disposition when his wool was stroked, soon perceived the spirit of Ralph's inquiries respecting the paternal munificence with which certain hypothetical nuptials would be distinguished, and participated in the passing pleasantings which some recurring references to the subject provoked. But this indulgingly passive temperament was in certain cases exceptional. The well-meant

meddling with matters which did not belong to Mr. Ruff had the effect intended, which was to excite suspicions in the mind of his reconciled and now attached friend respecting the motives which prompted the incessant acts of obtruding courtesy with which his daughters were pestered; which soon afterwards caused certain of the great ones previously referred to, whose prevailing infirmity prevented them from seeing themselves as others saw them, to become conspicuous by a drooping of their under jaw on politely being informed by the objects of their gratuitous civilities that their attentions would be disregarded; and what added to their mortification was, seeing Ruff regarded with an esteem which in their excited minds amounted to affection. The ladies were attending to their duties in their cabins when the scene between their father and Ralph took place. So much the better for Ralph, as if they had been witnesses to their parent's excitement the impression which its humiliating *denouement* would have produced might not have been easily effaced, and the cause of it would have been to them an object of aversion. But from the manner in which Mr. Aikenhead explained the cause of the unseemly altercation, the report of which had reached them, Mr. Ruff was regarded with very different feelings; and recollecting that his demeanour towards them and their female companions in the *Columbian* had been that of evident though unexpressed respect, together with having no personal ulterior object in view, they could with perfect propriety recognize him as a friend, and in pursuance of this policy, Ralph—the retiring, diffident Ralph Ruff—became, as far as the amenities of the deck were concerned, the friend of Emeralda and Carmina Aikenhead. In order that there

might be no misunderstanding of this tacit arrangement on the part of some to whom he meant it as a formal notification, the sexagenarian settler ostentatiously ratified the implied compact from the midst of a fashionable group, by an audible invitation to his friend in hail fellow well met tones, which sounded as a knell in the ears of several of the rising generation present: "I say, Rough," giving the guttural sound to the terminating consonants, "What's com' owre ye this while? what way was ye no doon the streen? we was a' wearyin' for ye; come doon the nicht, and tak a han' at catch the ten." Rather abashed, Rough declined on the plea of not being a card-player. "Sae far, sae guid; yer nane the waur o' that, but aiblins a' the better. Weel, come doon and get some Athol brose; we've some honey and capital Kirkliston, as guid as ever the Steens turned oot o' Kilbagie." But the invited guest could not comply with the kind request on the score of the cultivation of habits which were incompatible with the nourishing of appetites which, although in themselves lawful, were inexpedient and detrimental in many ways which he would not at present refer to. This self-denying reason for declining the offered hospitality of the garrulous tribune, appeared to some of the group to be prompted by a prudery, their sense of which they manifested by looks and expressions which induced Ruff to advise Mr. Aikenhead to invite two or three of the gentlemen whom he named, who would no doubt from their *bon-vivant* inclinations do ample justice to the offered indulgencies and be—"Na, na," interrupted the alarmed shepherd; "gie some folk an inch and they would tak an ell. I hae nae objections to the lauds, otherwise than I dinna want them to be comin' snookin' aboot me or mine. But since ye'll

no come doon to ony ither thing, ye might come an' crack a joke with the lasses." The silence which implies consent answered the off-handed laird in an affirmative, to decline doing which would have been as ungallant as it would have been ungracious.

The terms on which he was to be received as a visitor enabled Mr. Ralph to learn from his friend's experience much of the manner of life which the earlier settlers lived, the privations they endured, and the dangers to which they were constantly exposed from famine, fire, floods, droughts, and difficulties, the nature and severity of which the world knows little about. The most of the squatters of the present day live in conditions of as luxurious ease as the most thriving merchants anywhere do; indeed, the most of them are just successful merchants, and maintain the same style of living to which they were formerly accustomed. The pioneer settlers lived in secluded parts, and in ill-assorted habitations, although most of them were gentlemen of condition and education. If the muster roll of squatters of thirty years gone were examined, there could be names pricked off—belonging to rank, position, science, art, theology, law, manufactures, commerce, &c.—whose attainments, or those of their immediate relations, would have adorned the institutions and circles of this side of the world, with an acceptance which the paucity of numbers in the other hemisphere offered few opportunities of displaying. The writer heard the late Sir William Molesworth, when a candidate for the representation of Leeds in Parliament, in answer to a question addressed to him bearing on the laws of primogeniture and entail, say that the differences in fortune which these partial provisions entailed might, in a considerable measure, be lessened,

if the younger branches of the families to which they applied could be induced, instead of indulging in the frivolous and ensnaring pursuits which many of them followed, and in expectations of civil, military, and ecclesiastical appointments for which their education nor intellectual acquirements fitted them, were to be sent forth to subdue and cultivate those regions of the world in which were to be found "fields for their enterprize" they would remove from their order a reproach, and secure for themselves an independence in position and fortune which their listless and precarious style of living held out so little promise of their obtaining here. He had so equipped his own brother, who gladly embraced the opportunity, and went to New Zealand in the earlier days of its colonization, where by enterprize, combined with acquired knowledge, he was acquiring fortune and political influence which might yet be made subservient to the progress of civilization and the development of the latent wealth with which its solitudes abound.

It is true that some, a few successful squatters, have risen from the condition of shepherds to the top of the tree; but in the main the calling is distinguished by the numbers, intelligence, and capital, which the gentlemen following it command, the lack of which is, even in these latter days, causing many to relinquish it from inability, for the chief reason stated, to contend with the difficulties with which it is on all sides environed.

Mr. Aikenhead himself, although retaining many of the peculiarities of style, taste, and idiom for which his native hilly ranges are proverbial, sprung from a race distinguished in the history and traditions of bygone patriotic and covenanting times; and with whose lore and religious principles his youthful mind had been well

furnished. His father was an upland sheep-farmer, who, with the primitive, shrewd, gear-gathering habits of his class, was enabled to give his sons and daughters a good education. John was intended for the ministry in the New Light element of the Secession Church, and from his natural and acquired gifts would have made a foremost one in the body. Although above thirty years in the bush his speech was eloquent, and excepting when he prided himself in the broad accent of his eastern district, correctly pronounced. The attractions of Australia were too tempting, and he left his Latin and prospective pulpit, with its pastoral duties, for Australia, furnished with sufficient means from his father, supplemented with discriminating selections from the flocks which the best breeding downs of England could produce.

Mr. Ruff listened with sympathizing interest to the narration of the vicissitudes which his entertainer experienced in the fiery plains and combustible forests over which his flocks were spread. The native tribes brought together by their corrobera festivals, unaccustomed yet to the invading footsteps of the white man, were incessant subjects of inquietude and mortal danger. The dingo—native wild dog—which infested all the bush with their howling chorus and wolfish natures, were a terror to the outlying shepherds, whose flocks they worried and mangled. The devouring flames of the roaring bush fires kindled by the friction of the tinder-dried branches of the thickly timbered woods, or mayhap from a spark of a pipe, the wadding of a gun, or the spontaneous ignition of the parched grass from the sun's rays concentrated on a piece of carelessly thrown away glass; the long-continued heat, parching the pastures

and drying up the creeks and water-holes, creating famine and drought, under which many of the lean and panting flocks succumbed: the wailing of the gum trees, caused by the play of the winds through their wiry quick-set foliage, heated, it may be, by its passage over interior sands, or from the conflagrations of the backwoods glowing with an intensity which the heat of ten thousand furnaces could not excel, darkening the atmosphere with its murky load which careered before it, and blasting with a breath more fatal than mildew to the vegetating crops, subduing all animated nature under its paralysing influence; and then when the cooling breeze which ensued, reanimating all nature with its revivifying touch, would prove to be only the harbinger of the cloud no bigger than a man's hand; the sentinel watch in the sky, reporting the coming storm, and when the clashing* clouds which seemed to be created out of nothing, caused the pitchy firmament which they composed to belch forth fire, opening the windows of heaven and unsealing all its bottles, pouring down its watery treasures on the parched earth in cataracts which filled the creeks, and water-courses overflowing their banks, sweeping over the plains in a flood which bore on its bosom many a centenarian sheaock, as well as stock and working bullocks, with sheep innumerable, which failed to reach the higher ranges before they were overtaken by the deluge—formed altogether such a formidable list of adverse visitations as to cause Ralph to venture the remark that it was wonderful to think that ambition to realize wealth could sustain any one in such an encounter. “Ambition, said ye, Ralph? but there are at least two

* The alliterative resonance of “clashing clouds,” was far too fine music in the shepherd's ear to be sacrificed for any figure of speech less striking.

kinds of ambition. To attain by honourable means a position of independence, is in my opinion a worthy ambition, even if a man should, in the discharge of his duty, fall a martyr on the road to it. Is it a worthy ambition to be able to educate and bring up a family in a condition of comfort and other elevating influences, which, although me and mine in my younger days were comparative strangers to, may be desirable for all that? Is it a worthy ambition to have enough and to spare, whereby a man may, without the right hand whispering to the left, assist a neighbour out of the bog, and to be able to return to your native country to give a helping hand to those who, by the ties of nature and blood and kindred fellowships, have a claim on you if they should need it? Is it a worthy ambition to be able to support the church and its co-ordinate and subordinate institutions in a flourishing condition, whereby light and liberty with their attendant blessings are secured? I know it is common to speak disparagingly of men of the world, without discriminating between men of the world and worldly-minded men. For my part, I do not know how society would fare at all if it were not for the surplus savings of the industrious and economical. No, I like not the stinted economy of the worldly-minded man, who, by withholding more than is meet, begets poverty; not poverty of estate, but poverty of heart and niggard leanness of soul, which are so different from that mans whose outflowing streams of discriminating benevolence make glad and grateful hearts, and return to him in the fulness of the blessings of increase which his manifold scatterings obtain. Oh man, Ralph, I have been often puzzled to understand how it came that, just as fast as I put money in driplets as it were out at the window, it would come

in at the door in streams." "I am glad to think," observed Mr. Ralph, "that you have had some sunny spots to lighten up your pilgrimage, and that, notwithstanding the disasters that wool-growers are exposed to, there is still something profitable about it." "I tell you, Mr. Rough, that I have had so many sunny spots to lighten up my path, that, like the author of poor Richard, I could live my life over again, and almost feel thankful for the chance: for in spite of the difficulties which I had to meet at first, they were no match for the abounding blessings of which they were only the forerunners and chastising accompaniments. I am speaking in the way of a general providence, and not of the numerous occasions of selfish profitable ventures, such as when in '39 I sent to England for 500 rams of a certain breed, and which, including freight and charges, cost £10 the tup, and got £300 for every head I sold of them, besides improving the quality of the wool at every clip, and getting a name for fibre in London, which got up the price to a rate which turned out to be a more enduring source of profit than the speculation itself." "Then," observed Ruff, "you cannot call that a selfish venture, which was attended with such good results to the colony; I would say that, in so venturing, you were a public benefactor." "But," replied the conscientious moralist, "public benefactors in the way of trade (I speak of the motive), are not so plentiful as you suppose. I grant you that every man who makes his way in the world in a fair and honourable manner is, consciously or unconsciously, a benefactor. He cannot improve his own condition without in some way or other scattering blessings around him; even if he is doing little good to himself he may be adding to the commonwealth. One morn-

ing with a friend of mine, Donald Black, a decent, douce, gentlemanly brother wool-grower, I rode over to visit Donald Macrae, a neighbour settler, when showing us specimens of his stock of breeders of various kinds at his home station, we found him to be a public benefactor, when indulging in the vanity and pride of superior knowledge. Stopping us to look at a battle among a greedy gathering of the lower creation in his stock yard, and singling out a beast with his riding whip, wanted us to say if that was not as bonny a boar as ever we had seen, and an uglier brute to common observation it was impossible to look on; and I replied, just the same as if it had been as pretty as a peacock, that a more beautiful beast of the kind I never did see, and I said that entirely on my faith in Macrae's skill; for Donald was deeply read in swine, and while gratifying his fancy on the beauty of bestial, he was by selection and crossing of breeds, improving the quality of colonial bacon and hams, which by finding their way to general consumption, replaced the high-priced sides and hams of St. Louis, Belfast, and York, retaining in the colony large sums of money, whose channels were drained by the outflow." "I see," interposed his inquisitive auditor, "that you have studied the laws of political economy." "You give me credit there for more than I am entitled to, for I have studied few secular laws, further than the acts anent scab and rot and thistles, which, in the partial and harrassing manner they are enforced, are a plague and a pest only second to thistles and rot and scab themselves; but I don't see much political economy in a man feeding his own swine, instead of sending to a distance for them. That is domestic and national economy, against which there is no law, and industry and

economy require none to encourage them." In conversations such as these, many an otherwise idle evening was spent, which left but little time for joking with the lasses but Mr. Ruff was not great at a joke at any rate, although he would often create merriment unconsciously, which afforded evidence of the singleness of his heart; as if he had been a courtier he would not, with such fine opportunities of displaying his learning, have allowed himself to appear in the ludicrous plights he did; as when, for example, the unvarnished tale of his notable equestrian disaster would excite risibilities which even the decorously disposed Emeralda could hardly suppress.

RALPH RUFF'S ROUGH RIDE.

During the time of the hot Sunday of 1854, which will go down in the annals as second to, and only more tolerable than "Black Thursday," Ralph was the guest of a family living in the country about seven miles from the town where he lived, who sent a servant with a led horse on a Saturday evening, to carry him to spend the time on to Monday. For many days previous the country all round about was the scene of ruinous conflagrations to many a laborious farmer. The ranges from the You-Yangs to the Anakies were burning like volcanoes; and all up the valley of the Moorabool from Station Peak to Mount Macedon, was smoking like that of Hinnom; which made Ralph's ride to his entertainer's farm a severe trial. It was dusk when he, with the servant, started on their journey, and if it be possible to conceive how the term dusk can with propriety be applied to evening twilight, it can only be under such circumstances as they now found themselves in. The air was hot with the heat with which the raging sun had

charged it: it was dusky brown with the floating smoke which loaded it. Their track was over the fiery embers and still blazing brush fences, which men and women were laboriously endeavouring to swab back. The crackling of the brushwood and the fumes of the charring stubble started the keenly sensitive horses, rendering progress slow and difficult; and the occasional gleams from the last gasp of an expiring flame made the gloom more deep. On reaching their destination, without mishap, Ralph found shelter in a well-built freestone house—a rare thing in those days. The family, to most of whom he was known, were assiduous in their attentions, without forgetting those which were due to the only other guest of the evening, who was the young clergyman who officiated in the small galvanized iron church, to whom the genial-minded farmer regularly extended his hospitalities from Saturday till Sabbath evening. This was fine fellowship, and gave zest to the evening's entertainment, and encouraged Mr. Rough to anticipate a pleasant and profitable Sabbath, but which was not to be. The intrusive beams of the orient messenger found him bathed in a rush of oozing beads, which, after saturating his *sac de nuit*, pocket handkerchief, and the toilet towels, by the free use which he had made of them, still pervaded his whole body, and in streaming eruptions channelled his cheeks, and hung in dew-drops from his moustache, falling betimes into the orifice which divided that hirsute ornament from the shaggy covering of his chin and nether jaws, with a saline flavour, which in his feverish condition was nauseating and tantalizing. The mutual salutations at the breakfast table were accompanied with mutual commiserating remarks on the fervid heat. Stepping out

on to the lawn, whose verdure had faded and assumed a whitish aspect, the singeing smell so peculiar to a red-hot morning told of the power which the rampant king of day was wielding with an energy which he seldom put forth. Hanging about half-way between the horizon and the zenith, a mass of molten silver, on which no eagle dare look, without disc or other definition; alone in the mazarine tint of heaven's unfathomable blue, without a feather of a cloud, having no visible relation to any other material object in the universe but the panting and passive earth on which he poured the fury of his burning wrath—the sun would have been shunned for some shady retreat, but there were circumstances which required that his burden must be borne. The episcopal clergyman must be at the altar, and the farmer's two eldest daughters must be in their places in the limited choir, which they led. Equipment for the church was in due time completed. A handsome vehicle with Mr. Airey at the reins, and the minister at his side, and a female servant seated behind, completed the population of the drag. Two chairs, from which the charming vocalists were to vault easily into their side-saddles, were placed in a position as near their finely-groomed steeds as their impatient movements would permit; and there was led up to the doorstep, on which Ralph was nervously standing, a fine chestnut colt, fifteen hands and a half, with flowing mane, sweeping tail, and roving eye—saddled, bridled, double-reined, snaffled, curbed, and martingaled, in a style which might have satisfied any connoisseur in hogskin. The champing and pawing of the horse in harness, which seemed to think that the time was up, which it was; the pirouetting of those on which the ladies, with their smart riding-whips, buff

gants, blue riding-dresses, large disc straw hats, and yellow streamers, were seated; and the suspicious-looking post-and-rail charger on whose back he was to be placed—appeared altogether so formidable an affair as to cause Mr. Rough to breathe heavily, and to repeatedly apply his handkerchief to his streaming brow and his eyes, not to wipe away a tear, but the hot sweat. The gentleman, if he had been a lady, might have feigned a faint, but he would not, as he believed that acting a lie was as bad as saying it; besides he was not faint-hearted in the main, although—if the truth must be known—he would fain have found an excuse for declining the enterprise. But there was Mr. Airey with the reins in hand; there was the minister, who was to conduct the devotions of the sanctuary; and there were the ladies beckoning him to come on. And so, with a simultaneous bound he crossed the Rubicon and the fiery-looking colt at once. “Hold on,” he cried to the stable-boy, who had a firm gripe of both jaws of the restive brute’s bridle; “hold on, I beseech you, until I get the stirrup-straps taken up a hole.” This adjusted and his feet to the irons, the lad said inquiringly, “All right, sir?” “No, hold hard yet, until I knot up one of these reins; but what is the meaning, my man, of having two reins?” “That one you have knotted is for the bit sir, and that one you have in your hand is for the curb, which you can break his jaw with, when he bolts.” So Ralph determined to keep the jaw-brea kerin his hand as a precaution against any catastrophe, and reached forward to the chestnut’s neck to adjust the knotted bit-rein; and in doing so seemed to manipulate the mane as if he wished to acquire some knowledge of its capabilities; and then said, knowingly,

that he was not accustomed to ride with double reins; nor on a horse that required them; and courteously yielding to his reasonable scruples, Mr. Airey told the boy—who, as an *avant courier*, was mounted on an innocent hack, to ride in advance to take down the slip-panels—to come down and give Mr. Rough his horse; and so Ralph mounted the sober beast with alacrity, in the homely garb of leather and iron it was dressed in—suitable enough, certainly, for the off and on everyday work of the farm, but not for the young ladies, whose Lothario it was intended should be mounted on a steed and with trappings suitable to their rank and pretensions. They were, however, too well-bred to cut Mr. Ralph bluntly; but the telegraphing of their eyes evidently meant some recourse which would have placed him, in any other person's eyes but his own, in a rather humiliating plight. Five minutes had been lost, and they had not much more than that and twenty to ride to the church; so away with graceful strides bounded the noble chestnut to the menial duty of the gates and panels, when he should have been the pride of the church. Smack went the whip and round went the wheels of the gay trap with its respected freight; and up reared the high-bred bearers of the ladies, as soon as they felt the strain which held them in slackened, and leaping and prancing more than cantering in the wantonness of their pride, dashed right up to the carriage; while Ralph's Rosinante, disdaining the rear, to which he appeared by his rider's efforts to be destined, snorted past the fair equestrians and challenged the vehicle itself, by coming up close alongside the driver's whip; which, to clear Ralph's leg from the wheel, was judiciously applied to its flanks; which made the animal

to swerve with an acuteness which would have brought a more experienced horseman than Ralph to the same place, which was over the galled jade's neck on to the ground. The prostrate horseman did not remain long on the fallow furrows which kindly received him; but picking himself and his hat up at the same time, he was in his seat before the pioneer colt returned to retrieve the mishap. The alacrity with which he recovered his forfeited position in the saddle restored him to that which he had endangered, in the estimation of his Airey friends, by his translation from the gallant and gaudy caparisoned animal which should have borne him to the church, to the back of the unkempt agricultural beast he now bestrode. But he thought as little of this change in the sentiments of his fair friends, as he did of the damage which his new black suit had sustained with the red earth with which he had been in contact. "All right" being the word, away went the lively cavalcade with a will and a way whose speed was quickened by the thought of being too late; the chestnut aide-de-camp leading far a-head, leaving the track, cutting off curves and corners, led through the smouldering white remains of the overnight's fires; which with the rays of the torrid sun in the lift, the heat of the glowing embers from the ground, with his unpractised hand at the reins, rendered Ralph utterly unable to keep pace with his party. His horse lost temper and Mr. Ruff his equilibrium; unable to endure the burning sensation of the hot stirrup irons, he had kicked them from his feet. His watch had leaped from his fob, and, still attached to the chain, was striking him on the face with its pendulous action. The frightened animal, heedless of the vehement admonitions addressed to it to stop, urged on by the

clashing stirrups, dashed away out of the course, unrestrained by the nervous jerks with which the hand which still held the reins tortured it. The horseman was borne over fallen branches and under the outspreading limbs of trees, close enough to escape contact as if by a miracle. One lucid thought occurred to him in his perturbed state, which proved fortunate so far; which was to knock off his hat with the knob of his whip shaft, which would be a guide to the ladies, who, he concluded, would follow in his wake; which they did, and picking up the waif hat, took divergent courses, and lifting their horses with the practised eyes and hands of stock-riders over the dead wood like antelopes, with streaming pennants and bush-sweeping riding-habits, soon headed and faced Mazeppa. Ralph's position in the saddle was the best he could have taken, as it saved him from contact with the low branches of the bush; although he was a citizen of credit and renown, he never had the chance of becoming famous as a horseman, and finding the footing which the stirrup-irons afforded gone, planted his knees firmly behind the shoulders of the horse, his arms embracing its neck, with his head under its left ear, and a mouthful of mane in his teeth, he would have remained firm until his vagrant charger would have reached its paddock, which was its aim by the nearest cut as the crow flies.

At this point in the narrative there was a disposition evinced by more than one of the company to commit a breach of good manners, which their hands on their mouths clearly showed; to avoid the scandal of which Mr. Aikenhead recommended his guest to try a little of the Kirkliston, if it was only for the sake of the cool water from the small filtering fountain with its wet cool-

ing bandage, which the family always kept at hand. The artless style in which Mr. Ruff related his stories secured the respect of the matter-of-fact landowner. Carmina and the other privileged auditors would also lend attentive enough ears, but to all he said Emerald's was that which would more seriously incline; and when she wished him to repeat the more interesting stories of his life, the request was always made in a tone of affectionate esteem, which made the object of it sensitively anxious to entertain her with subjects of substantial interest, to feed her with food convenient for her. He knew the dangers which she and her sisters were likely to encounter, the subtle enginery which would be brought to bear upon their inexperienced natures. He had seen enough during the passage to convince him that they were the objects of attentions which were not prompted by disinterestedness and honour; and as he would require to leave them at Cairo, he resolved to be more open and communicative during the short time he would be near them. Ralph Ruff was a ripe scholar, and a student of the sciences which improve the mind and enlarge the heart. His sympathies were tender and respectful. He inwardly deplored the fact that Miss Aikenhead had never been placed in circumstances calculated to promote mental and intellectual culture. There had been no foundation laid on which a healthful mental fabric could be reared. Her graces were native to herself. Her gentleness, suavity, and proprieties of demeanour, taking root in her own nature, had grown with her growth and strengthened with her strength. The means of acquiring useful knowledge in her case had not been abundant. Her academic and boarding-school opportunities were limited and meagre; com-

mitted to the guardianship of a governess whose own attainments, although the best perhaps which the colony could produce, were not the qualifications required for the important functions of her office. Her father's avocations called him much from home, and the associations of a squatter's station in the days of her intellectual dawn were not of the most elevating cast, and she was now on her way to finish her education at the best seminaries which the capitals of Europe could offer. Mr. Ruff knew well that the finishing masters at these establishments were too often mere French polishers, grainers, whose superficial embellishments become tarnished with a breath, leaving the material on which the impression was made barren and bare, and who undertake by estimate to turn out articles of human furniture adorned for society in a style suitable for its effeminate and inane routine: only this, and nothing more.

Refreshed from the tap of the filtering fountain, qualified as it was by the live-coal, cinders, as he called it, which the shepherd dropped into the tumblers, and partaking of the more substantial viands which the supper table offered, the select party, feeling the closeness of the atmosphere, tempered as it was by the current which the open port-holes of the cabin produced, ascended to the quarter-deck. It was now past midnight. The ship was now drawing into the jaws of the African and Asiatic coasts, and approaching the Arabian shore, from whose neighbouring desert the heat was drafted in incumbent volumes. The awning was still spread to shelter the passengers from the condensing exhalations of the sea. The air, if air it could be called, was sultry and heavy, which had told upon the inhabitants of the deck, most of whom, overpowered by a resistless

lassitude, had stretched themselves on their mattresses, which their several stewards had brought up and strewed along the deck without regard to order or classification, which, if every one had not been under the same listless dominion, might have furnished censoriousness with food for gossip sufficient to live upon until scandal, for which she has a keener appetite, offered a more nourishing repast. It was no easy matter to pick their way through the prone and recumbent population of the deck ; here, stumbling over boots encasing limbs attached to bodies whose heads were unconsciously pillowed on heaving alabaster busts ; there, by the gentle rolling of the ship, falling on the drowsy occupants of a shawl and a great-coat, who, mutually stricken by the oppressive influence of the sweltering poop, had reclined on the bulwarks' bench, and into a position which naturally made the willing shoulder of the proprietor of the latter a bolster for the throbbing head of the owner of the former ; and navigating their way through the sinuous avenue which the irregular groups of human remains had nearly blocked up, encountering a couple of camp stools placed *vis-a-vis*, on which rested and were thankful, *tete-a-tete*, sharing a tweed plaid, *a la mode* Yelverton, Jeannette and Jeannot, elaborating some plan for the maintenance of a correspondence whose chief object was to be consummated as soon as circumstances would permit, and perhaps sooner. Looking in vain for a convenient retreat for his only follower, and unwilling to disturb the absorbed neighbourhood, Ralph led his charge to a bench close to the taffrail, which had become vacant by the disturbance of the mate of the first morning watch and his assistants taking the log of the ship's speed. This being beyond the covering of the awning enabled

them to breathe the early morning air, and they felt its revivifying influence. The sea was calm, and the *Columbian* was gliding swiftly and softly through it, as if sailing in a medium of milk. Saving the jerking of the tiller chain and the slight jolting motion of the propelling fan, not a sound could be heard; stillness, as if of a spell, reigned over all. It was the witching time of night, the very time for masquerading Mab, the fairies' royal midwife, to be abroad, who comes—

“In shape no bigger than an agate-stone
On the fore-finger of an alderman,
Drawn with a team of little atomies
Athwart men's noses as they lie asleep;
Her waggon-spokes made of long spinners' legs,
The cover of the wings of grasshoppers,
Her waggoner a small grey-coated gnat,
And in this state she gallops night by night
Through lovers' brains,
O'er courtiers' knees,
O'er lawyers' fingers. . . .
O'er ladies' lips,
Which oft the angry Mab with blisters plagues !”

The sky was clear, and covered with gems of purest ray serene. Ralph found a willing pupil in his fair companion, when from the stores of his astronomical lore he mapped out the heavens, and singled out, according to imperial nomenclature, the planets of our solar system. He informed her of the magnitude of the sun, 1,400,000 times larger than our earth, its specific gravity, distance from this and all its planets, of its luminous atmosphere, giving light and heat to them all; of the herald Mercury, a globe as dense as lead, flying round the sun at the rate of 100,000 miles an hour, a velocity greater than any other planet; of Venus, the beautiful and blushing.

Venus, usher in of the evening twilight, and sweet harbinger of the morn, reflecting the sun's rays with a brilliancy twice that of the earth, whose peculiarities he also described, and then ran over fiery Mars, with its moonless night ; the asteroids, Vesta, Juno, Ceres, and Pallas, with their ecliptical, eccentric, and possibly clashing orbits; mighty Jupiter rolling on in magnificent grandeur at the immense distance of 495,000,000 miles from the sun, and occupying twelve of our years to perform his circuit, carrying with him four moons, and his singular appendage of moving belts; Saturn, unique in the celestial canopy, with his seven moons and strange phenomenon of rings, turning round him at the distance of 30,000 miles in ten hours, and belts which, unlike Jupiter, are fixtures, and no doubt form an integral part of the planet. Uranus, at the enormous distance from the sun of 1,800,000,000 miles—a distance which if travelled by a railway carriage at the rate of twenty-five miles an hour, would occupy 10,000 years ; eighty times larger than the earth, claiming the homage of six moons ; of a density no greater than water ; and moving in his vast orbit more slowly and majestically than any other planet ; occupying in the completion of his circuit no less than eighty-five of our years ; and Neptune—. Here the student's features lightened up with animation while relating the beauties of the grand science ; of the fine achievements of its profoundest masters, from Copernicus and Galileo down to Adams and Leverrier ; and when, in the excitement of describing how the latter two still living men had by the intuitions of a kindred genius, by exploring the remotest ken of the system's vastest solitudes, determined the existence and locality of an addition to our planetary family, which no mortal eye

had ever beheld, from its disturbing action on other satellites—he drew nearer to his ward, and taking her hand to point out the place in the dazzling firmament where it might be found, the fluttering of her heart told how verily her perturbations were the effect of the electric current which the action produced ; retaining her hand, or finger rather, and directing her attention to the illimitable field of space, he told her that the indefinite number of stars with which it was crowded were suns, having in their several trains systems of worlds occupying as much space in the infinite domain of ether as our own, and that the millions of stars which inhabit that domain are not, as it may appear, scattered at random or diffused in space, but are collected into clusters, and bending up her finger into a vertical position, pointed to the Galaxy or Milky Way in the zenith—

A broad and ample road, whose dust is gold
And pavement stars, as stars to us appear,
Seen in the Galaxy, that Milky Way
Like to a circling zone, powdered with stars.

The number in this cluster, he said, is computed to be about 20,000,000, of which our sun is said to be a unit in the mighty concourse, and yet this is supposed to be less than many others.

Leaving the contemplation of the stars in the aggregate, he turned her attention to their classification in several of the constellations, and fixing his eye on the fast-receding Southern Cross, the most brilliant and significant collective object in the concave, informed her, that when once it dipt below the horizon it would never, never appear again to her on the canopy which would overshadow her in Europe, and she gazed on the

celestial crucifix with intensity and affection — the Southern Cross, composed of four stars, not quadrangular, but cruciform, the symbol of an estranged moral world's perfecting redemption. Warming in his pious adoration of the manifold works and wisdom of the Creator, he recited portions of the thirty-eighth chapter of Job, and apostrophizing Venus as the emblematic leader of that choral band whose vocal ascriptions, uniting with the jubilant acclamations of the sons of the Most High, were to the eternal pre-existence of the Creator of the universe, who alone binds the sweet influences of Pleiades or looses the bands of Orion. Dropping her engaged right hand, and taking up her more convenient left, he dove-tailed her fingers with his own, forming a tube to confine the range of vision to the point in the stellar firmament he desired, to enable her to pierce the distance more accurately, which unconsciously brought her hair into contact with his locks !

“ I wonder, Jeannie Morrison,
When sitting on that bink,
Cheek touching cheek—loof locked in loof—
What their twa heads could think ! ”

Not surely of the hazard to which they were exposed, nor of the goddess under whose dominating auspices they were now placed. Moving their united muscular telescope to keep pace with the way of the ship, in order to fix it towards a point in space, an apparent blank in the firmament, as far as human vision is cognizant, he said reverently and solemnly that in the deep darkness of that seeming cavern in the sky, science had brought to light strong evidences for the conjecture, that, in the centre of its unimaginable profound, with moons

revolving about planets, planets about suns, suns and systems about suns and systems, clusters of systems round their centres, and then, grand beyond all human conception, these mighty clusters, rolling on as one system with inconceivable grandeur, and in an orbit that baffles all attempts of arithmetic to define or the profoundest imagination to determine, rolling on about the great centre of millions of centres, round the capital of Jehovah's illimitable domains, about the throne of the eternal "I Am."* This was all new matter to the young lady. She had often gazed with admiring wonder on the phenomena of the heavens, but had never heard much about the glory of its stellar hosts, and gave audible expression to her surprise that her governess had never even rudimentally instructed her in astronomical knowledge, and deprecatingly remarked that she supposed governesses did not know much about these things themselves; to which her just and shrewd companion replied that she might, but in many instances they had to keep their lights under a bushel. They were in a great measure hirelings, and treated as hirelings, engaged to perform certain duties according to the hard-and-fast lines marked out for them; they were forbidden to assume airs, and told to mind their own business; and thus it was that many a useful lesson was lost, which would have been gladly given; many a youthful mind stunted, which might have given forth vigorous shoots; many a human angel contemned, who should have been blessedly entertained. The dominion of pride and heartless *hauteur* in the household order of superiors, inferiors, and equals, in innumerable instances had alienated the affections and crushed the spirit of many a noble drudge. Mr. Ruff could speak feelingly

* See Appendix.

on this subject. Governesses and tutors, he said warmly, do not, as a rule, occupy the family and social status in which policy, as well as their acquirements and the great importance of their office, should place them. The treatment to which the young man Chalmers was subjected, in earning his first fee after leaving the parental roof at Anstruther, vexed his righteous soul, leaving impressions there which even the friction of his pregnant career never could efface. But, observed his fair interrogator, even in that case, I wonder my mother—“Ever was such a silly, credulous fool as to have listened without feelings of alarm to the remonstrances of a more credulous and sillier husband, when she questioned the propriety of permitting the *carte blanche* visits of a man who, with the slimy plausibilities and insinuating slang of personal disinterestedness, has not disdained to desecrate the domestic privacy which he was indulgently permitted to invade, by seducing *you* into the contaminating embraces of a midnight fellowship, exposing *you* and the family which should now disown and disinherit *you*, to the sneers and derisive taunts of the very scavengers of the ship’s decks!” These words of indignant ire, falling on their hearts with a force as if shot from the explosion of an overcharged chemical retort, petrified the muscular astronomers, striking them dumb, and paralyzing them with the rigidity of marble, whose prevailing colour their features had assumed, came from the lips of a tall, noble-looking lady, in rich *neglige* attire, in the very prime of life, who, with an attendant of a genteel though less imposing mien, had for the last two or three minutes been observing the motions and listening to the conversations of the rapt philosophers, whose speechless silence had been construed by

the indignant oracle, whose potent voice had overawed them, as brazened defiance. In imperious tones she commanded Emeralda Aikenhead to repair to her own cabin instanter. Mr. Ruff, though unable to speak, essayed to assist the fainting girl to move, but was peremptorily commanded to desist, and told by the retiring lady, with sarcastic voice and gesture, to remain seated, as "his locks being wet with the dews of the morning," he could not choose a better position for drying them in the sun, whose light was already chasing the darkness, caused by the low-fixed awning, away to the regions of its native gloom. The lady's attendant, with simulated commiseration, having taken from her bosom a silver-mounted crystal containing restorative salts, plied her hireling attentions in a manner which brought the pale and passive girl to a sense of her painful position, and placing one arm in that of her female ministrant, would have given the other to her male companion; but that not being offered, she laid her disengaged hand on his shoulder, when he gently raised himself erect, and with the action assisted the trembling object of his intense solicitude to her feet, without officially disregarding the command which he had tacitly signified his intention to obey. The commotion among the more wakerife passengers which the scene excited, interrupted Miss Aikenhead and her female attendant in their progress to the stair leading to their cabin; and among the first to find her way to their assistance was Miss Carmina, who, ignorant of the cause of the pitiable condition in which she in her arms found her amiable sister, screamed, and vehemently insisted on being informed of the cause. Ralph, alarmed by the wailing of the girl for the condition of the hapless victim of

his untoward care, hastened up to the landing of the stair just at the moment when Mr. Aikenhead, who had been reposing on a sofa in the cooling current of his cabin, roused by the unwonted noise, ascended the steps in time to receive the body of his wife with his extended arms, into which she fainting fell, and mutteringly replied to the question of her husband respecting the cause of her painful plight, that it was the doing of his bosom friend Mr. Ruff-i-an; the double affix being breathed rather than articulated when about half way down to the bottom of the winding companion steps, on reaching which she fell into a double swoon, and then on to an air-cushioned couch, placed conveniently to receive her sinking form, which could not have happened at a better time, as it saved her from hearing or witnessing the excitement and stir on board the ship preparatory to hailing port. Trimming and steadyng the ship, running up her colours and pennants, floating her new gaudy royal standard, and other bits of bunting; unfastening and charging her juvenile Armstrong; stowing and lashing the sails to her accurately-squared yards; levering out the anchor from its port to be swung; lifting up her chain-cable from its dusky prison and coiling it in careful convolutions on the deck; stewards and cooks, full of importance and excitement, running about on gastronomic errands; captain, with chief mate, on the bridge, got up in uniforms radiant with faultless blue, white, and gold; slippred and pantalooned gentlemen, whose heads time had razored bare, in search of the steward or hot water, in which he always was, to perform the same operation on their beards; and giggling, glaiket, dishevelled girls, lurking in every corner, wondering what had become of the

stewardess, against whom complaints would be made to the captain for non-attention to the requirements of their toilets to enable them to be in time for the breakfast table, at which, just when the company had got seated, the sudden quiet caused by the stopping of the engines and the vibrations of the fan, the rasping growl of the running out chain cable, the report of the signal-gun, and the roaring of the liberated steam, announced that the *Columbia* had anchored in the offing at

ADEN,

said to be the hottest place in the known world ; which saying seemed to be verified by the feelings experienced on landing on its low-lying, level, sandy shore ; on reaching which, I immediately acquired an Arab steed from a group at a stand waiting to be hired, reminding one of the something similar conveniences to be had at Blackheath. When mounted—which was the easiest thing to do I ever did of the kind—the formidable idea of the wind-speeding Arab steed gave place to a feeling of hobby-horsing. The fetlock-deep sand made the motion soft and easy, which might justify any rider to urge his Bucephalus to do its speedy utmost with certain impunity : while the circus-galloping gait, with a broom or hayfork shaft for a spear, borne horizontally under the right arm, and a scarlet bed-quilt adjusted so as to balloon out to its bent, for a flowing robe, might give a line of rank of equestrians thus equipped a savage enough appearance. I expected that cleaving the air would have created a current which would have been cooler than the breath of the burning sands ; but in this I was disappointed, as the continuous sirocco meeting

me at every turn, eddying round the rugged volcanic hill at whose base, fronting the sea, is situated the low-pitched one story hotel, in whose spacious bar-room the passengers from the numerous ships meet for refreshments and mutual gratulations—made the saddle a seat more intolerable than the sand, over which I preferred to walk. On dismounting from the obsequious beast, which would have gone down on its knees for my convenience in dismounting if required, I found it rather difficult to settle with his swarthy master, who seemed to be either deaf or unable to understand what I said; and without reflecting that it might be my business to understand the articulated sounds emitted by him, as much as those by me should be comprehended, I made a sign of pocketing my purse, a motion whose meaning he understood if he did not my speech; and signalling to a brother craftsman we obtained a rudimental interpreter, who enlightened me on the subject by drawing from his pocket, or inside wallet, and showing me a silver piece as the charge; which, being neither more nor less than I expected, enabled us to part with mutual salaams, and taking the deed for the word, it may be inferred both well enough pleased.

It is a pleasing if not a remarkable trait in social nature, which may be observed under various phases and circumstances—as of, say, a workshop full of artizans, who, during the week manifest differing dispositions of friendliness, brotherly kindness, frigidity, alienation, or animosity, as the case may be—when they meet on convivial occasions, especially such as bring out wives and the expected makings of them, at wakes, fairs, or other holiday celebrations, they meet one another with greetings as cordial and as demonstrative as if they

had not met for years, and as frankly and kindly as if estrangement had never existed between them. The meeting of the passengers of the *Columbian* was also one in common. There were no outsiders—none whose presence remained unnoticed or unwelcomed. The more diffident and retiring on ship-board were cheerfully beckoned to the front; and when Mr. Ruff returned from a botanical tour, which even the sterile aspect of the place did not dissuade him from indulging in, he was received by all, excepting a small limited liability company of the Dundreary genus, with becoming respect, and warmly offered hospitalities. His native sense and good breeding were spontaneously manifested by the manner in which he received and returned the civilities and passing pleasantries of the hour; but when duly acknowledged and observed, he, from his studious disposition and manner of life, preferred retirement, and with two or three friends went to inspect the remains of a recently-discovered tank or reservoir, which had been made by a race or tribe existing long before the commencement of the Christian era. The protracted droughts, to which all nature, animate and inanimate, is subjected in those regions, prompted the construction of these receptacles all round the base of the mountain for containing the condensed dews; which, either from the ravages of time or war, had in the course of ages become dilapidated and crushed in with the disintegrations of the superincumbent rocks; but which, under the restoring and reanimating hand of British commercial enterprise, were being substantially refitted for the uses for which they were originally intended. After inspecting the remains of these works, Mr. Ruff entered on some interesting speculations on the con-

ditions of servitude under which the common people, by whose labour they had been constructed, lived, languished, and died. The party, providing themselves with horses, made an ascending tour by the road which leads to the town of Aden, which, although seemingly close to the sea, at an elevation of 500 feet or so, is, by the circuitous route by which it is reached, above five miles' travel. The town, or rather village, stands on the very verge of the great Arabian Desert, and presents a most dreary and dismal aspect. The degraded and seemingly hopeless condition of the people, their abject poverty, and the abasing influence of their fanatical faith, place them apparently beyond the reach of the elevating power to which the freedom and inspiring principles of Christian civilization would raise them. To look abroad on that waste howling wilderness, on the withering monotony of its glaring sand and tawny horizon, unrelieved by any signs of vegetable or animal life, or cooling breeze or refreshing stream, should beget feelings of gratitude in the breast of the most obscure citizen of Christendom, that he has had so goodly a heritage, and that his lines have fallen in pleasanter places than those whose lot is cast in the midst of impracticable sands, and under the dominion of the abasing forms and injunctions of the false prophet.

The town, as well as the port of Aden, is now participating to some extent in the activity, by the circulation of money, which the various agencies of the ships' companies and passengers stimulate. The natives derive considerable sums from the sale of ostrich feathers, which the desert yields to their knowledge of its peculiar storehouses, and their stratagems in obtaining their treasures. A number of our fellow-passengers procured

certain specimens of feathers at the rate of one shilling each; which favourable state of the market was taken advantage of by the limited liability company of Mr. Sothern's originals to invest in, for the making up of plumes for presentation to certain ladies, of whom it was now considered that, as the object of their former partialities had fallen into disgrace and oblivion, they would be more accessible to advances, which had been recently slightlying avoided. This moiety of the upper ten thousand, as they apeingly strove to be thought, had come up to the village from the shore hotel in a *char-a-banc*, whose antique style, dilapidated condition, and faded furniture, suggested thoughts of Cockpen and its poultry-frequented coach-house, when it turned out its venerable four-wheeled tenant to carry the laird's well-seasoned sisters to celebrate the hymeneal ultimatum of their tid-come-over brother with Mrs. Jean of Clavers-hall Lea, whose pedigree being longer than her purse made ample amends on that score—descent, in their estimation, being equivalent even to, and more to be desired than, fine gold. The strong waters to which the picnician excursionists to the tents of Tadmor, in their jubilant and choking condition, had recourse, co-operating with the sun's compliments of the season, and the dust-loaded brickfield atmosphere which the hot blast from the furnaces of the desert raised, acted as a counter-irritant to the diseased imaginations *l'amour*, by which they were afflicted, broke out into an eruption of the whole vehicle, and which terminated in its untimely dissolution. The most Waterfordian member of the company, who assumed and to whom was voted the leadership of the party from the fact of his liberality in forking out, and around whose fork the others were mere

satellites, having taken his position as a postboy outrider, to shun the blinding fury of the dust turned himself in the saddle and came galloping up to and in among the astonished Ishmaelites, holding on by the crupper, on the looping-place of which his nose was incontinently resting. His first motion after getting down and mustering his followers, was to enter one of the neighbouring places of abode, inhabited by one of the citizens and his wife and family, which included two favourite horses. Instead of the usual salutations of peace, his was the offering of discord and deadliest insult, by the libertine act of lifting up the fold of calico which veiled the face of the wife from the profane gaze or desecrating touch of the scorned infidel; which, being resented by the dishonoured husband in a manner which, from ignorance of Arabic, the roué could not understand; who, mistaking the language of threatened revenge for insolence; maddened by drink, in the lust of pride, and chagrined by baffled purpose, flung his panama in the face of the weeping, humbled, and now degraded woman, and shied his riding-whip at the turban of the Turk, as he thought; but who was not only a Turk but an athletic Tartar, in the crushing gripe of whose muscular arms he was in a moment writhing, and fell together outside the threshold of the hovel. The Englishman's comrades were attracted to the spot by the concourse which gathered round their prostrate leader, but arrested in their attempts to interfere by the upraised blades of a score of flashing scimitars, held menacingly aloft; accompanied by the gleaming eyes and gnashing teeth of as many swarthy sons of Sahara, who were only prevented from executing sanguinary vengeance on the reprobate, for the desecration and violence done to their

faith and practice, by the interference of a "sheik" who, from the frequency of his visits at the landing hotel, understood the English language sufficiently well to enable him to perform the triple functions of interpreter, government officer, and pacificator, in which latter capacity he probably saved the endangered life of the aristocratic bravo; but not from destruction the cumbrous carriage which had brought himself and comrades to the scene of their humiliating discomfiture, which was plundered of its hampers of picnic provender, stript of its linings and cushions, and smashed into numberless bits, each of which, with the wheels and other addenda, were borne off as trophies first, and then as loot, far enough into the fiery desert to baffle pursuit.

The plight in which the proud party found themselves was found to be as inconvenient and painful as it was disastrous and humiliating. The quadrupeds which it required to drag them up the curvating steep ascent to the town, on being liberated from their bondage, after making a sweep on the confines of the plain, as does a carrier pigeon before starting out for its destination, made for home as soon as they found the road to it; down whose steep decline they careered with a force whose momentum, increasing as they flew, very near sent one of them sheer over a protecting wall on to the rocks outside, on which it would have been smashed and killed outright.

With the assistance of fellow passengers, freely offered, among whom was Mr. Ruff with a large bunch of flowers and botanical specimens, the unfortunate travellers reached the shore hotel afoot, in a condition which rendered it necessary for two of them to be subjected to medical treatment and compulsory restraint;

sun-stroke and the maddening play of artificial stimulants had produced a certain degree of cerebral congestion which required skill to overcome. Others of the party, smarting under the pain of humiliated pride, and the formidable items of the landlord's bill for the demolished chariot, and compensation for loss of trade to which his establishment, minus the vehicle, would be liable, could hardly be said to be all there. In the case of one of them, at least, there was evidently a shingle loose. He was the victim of a double stroke—the fervid rays of a vertical sun and slighted tender affections. He had been the most conspicuous in the assiduousness of his offered attentions to the young ladies aboard, and altogether the most slavish lacquey which Mrs. Aikenhead's slightest movement or indisposition found at her feet. The incense which he incessantly offered at this shrine was accompanied with statements respecting his noble blood and his great expectations, with insinuations and dastardly reports respecting others, which could only be the engenderings of a spoiled and depraved disposition. He it was whom Mr. Aikenhead overheard adding the two offensive syllables to Mr. Ruff's name, and which was the reason why the good-hearted shepherd preferred calling him Rough, as the other pronunciation was provokingly suggestive of the affix, and the adding of which afforded no indication of cleverness to any one. It was he who, in his self-imposed task of spy, tracking the footsteps, interpreting the motions, and noting and reporting the conversations of the objects of his jealousy, big with the importance of ocular demonstration which the position of the Ruff-i-an and the compromising Emeralda offered, stealthily made his way to the couch in her cabin on which Miss Aikenhead's mother was

reclining; who, permitting Iago to whisper his fears, founded on facts of which she might herself be the witness, accompanied by the governess, who during the passage performed the double office of ladies' maid and teacher, sallied forth on the errand whose accomplishment alarmed and confounded the unsuspecting and innocent victims of a malignant espionage, and inaugurated a discipline whose rigour, but for the kind construction of her paternal parent, would have deprived the daily promenade of the deck of one of its most amiable attendants. Forgetting himself in the reflections which his losses and crosses induced, and to drown them and his chagrin together, he had recourse to laughing and quaffing to a degree which left him of reason, if not, at least, of self-control, and which the circumstances of the moment required all his efforts to master. On being informed, as a reason for the observance of a more peaceable deportment than he was practising at the bar, that there was a select party composed of the very elite of the *Columbian* in an adjoining parlour, he burst the bonds of prudence; and elated with the spirits he had imbibed, and bounding with the elasticity of youth and practice, he advanced with a professional step to the centre of the capacious bar-room, and motioning to the loungers to make a circle, he went through a series of acrobatic feats, ending with turning a flip-flap somersault with the neatness, ease, and sang froid of a professional gymnast. Then, lifting the lustre silk coat he had thrown off, he drew from the pockets the ostrich feathers which his company had bought, on their way up to Aden, from peripatetic merchants, and planting them in the folds of the white muslin turban with which his Panama hat

was bound, with their bending crests falling uniformly outwards, and placing the crown-shaped plume on his head with his own hands, as Napoleon le Grand did with the costly bauble he forged, and placing his arms across his breast, he danced a double hornpipe—which included a series of steps, changes, shank shakes, and single, double, and triple shuffles—with a grace and abandon which elicited loud expressions of approbation from the company, not excepting the landlord, who seemed puzzled between the admiration with which he looked on the performance, and the suspicion that he had only a company of mountebanks to look to for the payment of his heavy bill; and when the flexible-jointed, plume-crowned hero borrowed a pair of heavy tacketed boots from one of the *Columbian's* Finnieston stokers, and danced the Lancashire clog-dance to the strains of an accordion, which an Italian passenger elicited from his well-tuned instrument, the whole bar shook, and came crashing down about his ears in thunders of applause, which brought to the door of their privileged apartment two or three of the elite of whose vicinity he had been informed, but who retired again without being noticed by the performer. He then, in lieu of swords, made a cross on the floor formed of glasses from the bar counter, and danced Ghillie Callum in his stocking soles; and sitting down, he took them off, and bringing the boots in one hand and the stockings in the other, he laid the boots down at the grim Scotchman's feet, and made boxing-gloves of the stockings on his own hands, telling the stoker to do the same with his own stockings; but was told by the canny Scot that he never had the "mits" on in his life. "Then," said the gay profligate, "are you married?" "Yes." "Then I know

what you have had on ;" and he skipped out to the cooking depot, brought in a poker, and offered it to the surprised coalman, saying, that as he was married he would have had some practice with *that*; which, whether from the insult, or the sight of the useful article in its own place having recalled some disagreeable domestic incident, roused the slumbering temper of the now incensed vulcanite, who, making a spanner of the fore and middle fingers of his left hand, and a bolt nut of the acrobat's most prominent facial feature, gave it a wrench as he would one of his own boiler nuts, and applying the palm of his right hand to the offender's left cheek, left its open impression there, and wheeling him round made a *coup de pied*, which was less honoured in the breech of drunk Dundreary than it was in the performance of sober Sawney; observing, as he finished, that "that was the treeple roond o' compliments which he would flatter no man by offering wha didna deserve them, and which no man should receive without returning them, or else take care lest a worse thing befall him." The cheering and salvoes of "bravo, Scottie" which followed this exhibition, brought to the door of their privileged apartment two or three of the ladies, of whose vicinity the young man had been informed, among whom the gallant observed the lofty head, resplendent features, and commanding presence of the lady whose flunky he had previously insisted on being; and going first to the bar tap to keep up the steam for his final effort, he then advanced to the small group who were still standing in the doorway, and with a bow as profound as any frequenter at Almack's could bend, he without invitation or permission—feathered and plumed as he was, in his stockings, and still bearing

the mark of the stoker's grimy palm on his cheek—pushed past them and placed himself in the midst of the select company, more than one of whom eyed him with expressions which his keen glance told him were fatal to his pretensions and blasting to his hopes. Mr. Aikenhead, around whom sat all the members of his family, ordered the intruder out of the room; and Mrs. Aikenhead herself, in a hesitating, half-whispered manner, wondered he dared to disturb the privacy of the company at a time when they were subject to the gaze and animadversions of the people! Chagrined, cut, and careless as to consequences, the audacious aspirant to the hand of her eldest daughter, for the approving manner in which she seconded the remarks of her husband, faced the company, and dwelt upon the house of Aikenhead, giving the pedigrees of its founders with most undesirable accuracy, whetting the edge of his sarcasm with a skill which, like a polished razor keen, wounds with a touch that's scarcely felt or seen—unfelt or seen by the most of the company, but felt keenly by the lady on whom the wound was intentionally inflicted. She had nursed the pinion that impelled the steel, as it was from her own armoury that his quiver was filled with the winged shafts which he now aimed at her heart, in moments of communicative confidence, inspired by representations which he used to make of the privileges of rank, the desire for which was her real besetting sin. Enjoying his triumphant revenge, he tauntingly remarked that people should not be ashamed of their lineal descent or their original names; as for himself, he was not afraid, and announced in the most charming “coal-hole” strains and style that “Champagne Charlie was his name;” was his name, that Champagne Charlie

was his name, and with a daring which no one but a reprobate could venture on, informed the lady in whose heart he was turning the barbed arrows he had shot, that he could himself select from the present company a given number of ladies, from which, with herself as chief centre, he could form groups of attraction which princes might patronize. Fortunately for himself and the feelings of the company, Carmina, observing a certain movement of her father's hand, flew forward and threw herself into the arms of the insulter, else he would not have left the apartment alive, as the practised bushman, from the necessities of his early life, having acquired a habit of never leaving his domicile unarmed, had already his hand on his unerring weapon, whose contents would have sped through the heart of the wretch who had defied himself, insulted his wife, and threatened the safety of the lambs of his domestic flock.

The coaling of the ship being completed, and the mail boxes aboard, the *Columbian* early in the morning proceeded in the direction of her final port, at the head of the Gulf of Suez, and from which to Alexandria *via* Cairo, about 120 miles, is really all which constitutes what is called the overland route at the

HEAD OF THE RED SEA,

at whose mouth Aden is so finely situated. The cool air of the sea, increased by the current which the ship's way created, was felt by all on board to be refreshing and invigorating after the relaxing atmosphere of the sultry land. On coming from the saloon and enjoying the scenery of the shore before breakfast, every one felt as if he were on the wings of the morning and could fly. The languishing disposition which the shore and

its boisterous enjoyments induced had, with the revivifying elements in which we were now bathing, given way to a buoyancy and elasticity of spirit of which the clayey tabernacle in which it was fettered seemed less a burden than a condition. The mutual salutations on the deck were given with a *bonhommie* which made all things pleasant. The passage of arms between the gentle shepherd and his protégé when they stretched them forth to make palms meet, was so vigorous as to suggest the possibility of dislocation of shoulder joints, if a hearty burst of mutual greeting had not superinduced different thoughts.

“Gude Morrow to ye, neebor Ralph;
Sit doon and gies your crack.
What’s a’ yer news frae toon?
They tell me ye were up there yesterday,
And gathered flo’ers enow to busk a braw bouquet.”

“Aye,” replied the schoolmaster abroad, in, to be him, tolerable Doric—

“And tent me noo, my boy,
For I hae gathered news will kittle your mind wi’ joy :
I could not rest, till I, in words that burn,
Would tell you things had teuken sic a turn.
We saw our vile tormentors loup like flaes,
And skulk like hidlings doon the stoorie braes.”

But it was not things only that had taken such a turn—minds, hearts, dispositions, had taken a turn. The earnestness with which the good shepherd assured his wife, on her recovery from the illness which the excitement of the scene at the taffrail produced, that however much appearances might seem to justify her suspicions, and which he could not blame her for, at the time, entertaining, that he was as perfectly satisfied of Mr. Rough’s honour and of Emeralda’s veracity as he

was of the villany of the disturbers of their peace, and of the Richmond-like espionage of which they had been the innocent victims ; and was proceeding to fortify his position by a reference to the scene at the hotel, and the glorying in his shame which the chief conspirator had manifested, when she, with a negative wave of her hand, exclaimed—" No more, no more ; enough, it is enough. Be the bearer of the expression of my deep regret to the gentleman I so deeply wronged, and whose character and motives I have so little understood, for what has passed. Let the scene at the hotel and everything relating to its chief actor and his confederates, be buried in the deep blue sea. Request Mr. Ruff to forget these things which are more behind, and to permit us to look forward to the instructive enjoyments which his countenance and company cannot fail to produce ; and that as a token of the earnestness of my wish, I will with my own hand return to his the family visiting *carte-blanche* I, in my haste, so violently deprived him of." "Amen!" said the shepherd with an utterance as tremulous as that of a parish clerk chanting the responses at a reading-desk ; and following the example set by the heads of departments, it was cheeks touching cheeks, and loofs locked in loofs all round ; and a smacking kissing chorus, accompanied with sobs and sighs, and rain-drops falling fast, bringing into requisition all the cambric hankies, told how completely reconciliation had been effected, and love and duty reclaimed by the open-hearted manner in which the maternal conversion had been acknowledged.

The straightforward manner of this acknowledgment was quite in keeping with the lady's disposition and all her antecedents. The only child of an officer in one of

the government establishments in Van Diemen's Land —of good family extraction, and with the imperious manners which his name, Montague, and the commanding discipline which the effectual discharge of the duties of his office, inspired—was left to his charge by his wife, who died when the child was only three years of age, with instructions to nurture and tutor the object of their united affections himself; a charge which he religiously kept. Zenobia derived from both of her parents a stately style of physique and carriage. She was the apple of her father's eye; and by the time she was creeping up to her teens, became the subject of his anxious care. She was not spoiled, although an only child; because, unlike some other great men, he did not familiarly "unbend," as the phrase is, to stoop to caress the creature of his hopes and fears. Although only a Montague, he might have been a Percy in this respect; but she was well informed by him that her blood never ran through a scoundrel's veins since the days of Noah, that it was royal blood, that she was the daughter of kings, and that in all her actions the purity of the sanguinary current must be made manifest. It shone, he said, conspicuously in the code of discipline which he adopted. She was to be generous, though exacting; gentle, though lofty; and forgiving, though not easily to be entreated. He was called the "king," both because, as he was heard to boast often, of his kingly descent, and from the temper of the rod he ruled with. In the year 1834 the British government lost a good disciplinarian in an onerous establishment; and Zenobia Montague became an orphan by the same stroke. She found an orphanage in the home of a distant relation in New South Wales, near to what is now

the city of Melbourne. Zenobia was seventeen years of age at the time of her father's death; taller, but not more looking in features than that. The date being seventeen years prior to the great Mammonic eruption, the disparity between the sexes was not so great as it has been since that great historical event. But the male element greatly preponderated; and the population being composed in a great degree of assisted emigrants and others, whose pastoral and agricultural pursuits confined them to their rough and rustic associations, the social state was not so conspicuous for the refinements and indulgences which are characteristic of some parts of Australia at the present time. It was more literally that which the most approved definition of what civilization really is, or ought to be, affirms:—"That state of society in which every individual enjoys the highest degree of personal freedom." Where this freedom exists unshackled, there is manifested the possibility of the development of the highest degree of physical, intellectual, and moral culture. The region of New South Wales of which the colony of Victoria is now formed, was too far removed from Sydney, the capital, to be overwhelmed by the convict element; but near enough to Hobart-Town, the then capital of Van Diemen's Land, to be tainted with its residuum, whose *meum et tuum* ideas were not those of honest men, who were under the necessity of making common cause for mutual protection. That which is now the fine and famous city of Melbourne, and its rival at that time, Geelong, were, from being mere villages, creeping up to the importance of towns; and the Port-Philip Club, of the former, and *Mac's* Hotel of the latter, became the rendezvous of the squatters and settlers of their several districts. From the

isolated condition in which they lived throughout the greater part of the year, they availed themselves of the advantages which the wool season afforded, to fraternize protractedly at these seasonable times : the bachelors, who predominated, manifesting the most decided evidences of brotherly kindness in this respect ; who generally found that, somehow, the advances made on the down-the-road clip, which was entered to their credit on the left-hand side of their bank pass-books, was fearfully marred by cheques entered to their discredit on the right-hand page. This being a state of things which was altogether inconsistent with the advances which their industry and privations justified them in expecting, some of the more reflecting of the anchorites resolved to cut that connexion and reform, by forming others of a more enduring and proper character. Of these, Mr. Aikenhead was among the first to signify his intention, and spoke of the infatuated unwisdom of the descent they were making in their own and the public estimation by their course of misimprovement, and that they might please themselves, as they no doubt would ; but as for him, he was resolved to get a wife. But that was more easily said than done. Where was the raw material to come from ? Miss Montague the princess, as she was called, became the trump, and was toasted as the ticket. The Pentland hero, who had always the knack of keeping his own counsel, was now forty years old ; mature in judgment as in years. He became suddenly retired in his walk and conversation. Miss Montague was missing from her orphanage. She was much wanted by some of the younger members of the squatocracy, but was *non est*. Pilgrimages were made by more than one or two of them to the scenes of her childhood, but

the lady was not seen. Little listing of the escapade of Jock o' Hazeldean, they still boasted of their determination to carry off the old king's daughter, but they boasted in vain for the space of two years; when she appeared one Monday morning, suitably attired and attended, at the canonical rendezvous at the altar of Swanston Street Church, Melbourne, where, with her own hand, she gave up Zenobia Montague in exchange for Mrs. Aikenhead—not in obedience to any sudden impulse, but from well-considered reasons, and proved and approved attachments. Her husband, in forming his resolution to enter the bonds of matrimony, set the proper way to effect an interview, and was successful in that, and in assuring her of his upright intentions. But as they both agreed that she was o'er young to marry yet, he made arrangements which, being dictated by judgment and prudence, were effectual. A home was provided for the heroine in the family of a friend; where she would have the benefit of the educational advantages which his friend's daughters were receiving, at a distance of above three hundred miles from the localities where she might be exposed to allurements which would baffle his honourable designs. He was, however, getting regular reports from her trusted guardian, of her deportment and sentiments; which continued to be highly satisfactory—especially when informed in one epistle that she "preferred Aikenhead because he was a man of sense, and substance, and had arrived at years of discretion; which she was afraid some of her more youthful importunes never would—live as long as they might." There was a dash of candour, humour, and common sense in this, which pleased the man of mutton to the heart. His corre-

spondent, under whose fatherly care she was placed, attended often enough to her advancement in knowledge and all needed accomplishments, but never once to her growth in grandeur of appearance and stateliness of port; and when, on the morning of the wedding, he was introduced to her for the first time since the commencement of her two years' probation, he beheld her matchless form, resplendent features, and adorned in bridal array with a lustre which only the beams of her own countenance could render more dazzlingly grand, he became flushed and thoughtful. Taking from her hand the modest sprig of native wattle, with its laburnum bloom and honeysuckle breath, which appeared to him the most welcome offering she could make—emblematic as it was of her cheerful acceptance of the home he had prepared for her, which she had been informed was embosomed in its grateful foliage—he appeared bewildered, and when his bestman whispered in his ear that he seemed surprised, “And weel I may,” he replied audibly, “but at naething mair than my ain impudence!”

The home he had prepared for her was, as were those of the best of his class, plain and unassuming; but it came up to her expectations. There was room for improvement, and she made it. There were opportunities of being benevolent, and she was it. The inculcations of her father—feudalistic as they were—preserved her from the familiarity which breeds contempt; and she formed no associations, because she had no equals to choose from; and with the exception of occasional very select entertainments, she encouraged no convivial connections. When her children began to multiply, she was under the necessity of retaining professional assistants; but with the exception of her own

nurse, her husband was all the world to her. The passion for aristocratic homage which her father instructed her to expect was still latent, though slumbering; and when, by the sudden influx of people in such numbers, Mr. Aikenhead's wealth was increased, the possibility of mingling in the noble and privileged circles in the halls of her ancestors was secretly admitted and felt. The carcases of his flocks, which were formerly a mere trifle compared with the value of their fleece, in consequence of the sudden demand for butcher meat doubled their value at one stroke. The large possessions of arable land on the Barabools and other districts skirting the coast, which he had purchased from the crown at nominal prices, he parcelled out into farms and leased at current rates, quadrupled his income from this quarter. His horses and horned cattle, whose numbers he could only compute at the periodical general musters, became a source of increasing wealth; and the steady advance in the price of wool in London, added to the foregoing items, constituted a realizable capital which astonished himself. Melbourne was rising rapidly in importance, and her incipient motions indicated a gay and luxurious predilection. Society began to form itself from the growth of transplantations vigorously shooting aside the withering weeds of transportations. The prosperity resulting from the development of material wealth soon became manifest in the style and extravagance which its sudden acquisition so uniformly display. Entertainments of the most pompous and costly character abounded; and for a time the public virtues withered under the blasting influences of a vain show. The hollow splendours of the more pretentious of the higher spheres of the new civilization, found hosts of eager

aspirants in every descending scale ; down to the very depths of society it played havoc, until its very residuum festered in the grossness of plethoric indulgence. But during no period of the short reign of this Saturnalia did Mrs. Aikenhead appear : she remained in dignified retirement. But in 1854 the social atmosphere began again to clear up, and wore a more promising aspect. The necessity for religious, educational, and benevolent institutions was recognized and acknowledged by the salt of society. Mr. Aikenhead and a number of zealous co-workers set about the matter in earnest, and as patrons and patriots gave encouragement to every reasonable effort. Lady patronesses were required ; and in the absence of any of civic rank—the most of whose lords were absorbed in the questionable pursuit of increasing their wealth and civic ascendancy by adding house to house, which were neither of a benevolent nor useful character—Mrs. Aikenhead's name appeared on a list ; which at once added strength and popularity to the cause of social progress. It was seldom, however, that she appeared at committee or other meetings. She considered that these matters should, with greater social propriety and business aptitude, be as much as possible consigned to gentlemen ; that the dignity and sanctity of domestic consecration was violated, and its peaceful and responsible duties marred, by clashing sentiments and co-equal social engagements ; and that if every one would mind their own home and keep an eye on their own families and domestics, that there would be less need for every busy-body becoming sentimental superintendents and patronesses of societies formed for the improvement of the morals and matters of neglected young men and women, whose own mothers' time—as

well as their fathers'—was taken up with subjects which deprived their firesides of their legitimate oversight. She, however, contributed from her privy purse liberally for charitable and other benevolent purposes; but she was too dignified and reclusive to do so in her own name and person. She allowed her husband to be her almoner; and that was the secret at last, how Mr. Aikenhead's name appeared at the head of lists so often, when it should have been half-way down at least. It was the princess's money, and there was not so much credit due to him after all; and when remonstrated with on this subject by Mr. Aikenhead, her proud unbending nature was clearly manifest by the unusual remark: "I want you, sir, and not myself, to be known in the gates." But strange as it may appear, this haughty abnegation of self whetted the public appetite more and more. Her peculiarly unpopular disposition excited public curiosity, and envenomed shafts flew at her in vain. She was invulnerably panoplied in pride. It set up a target, and she was the bull's eye at which many aimed. Her very absence increased her distinction; and the perverseness of poor human nature displayed itself in the singular spectacle—she became an idol, and the subject of a homage of which princesses might well be proud; but she would not have it. She did not want vulgar homage; she wanted to be let alone, and permitted to mind her own business—a most unusual thing in and around Melbourne at that time. Ambitious people took the common way to become popular; they courted it, and some tried to buy it, and paid dear for it; and made most unearthly flutterings to catch the public eye. In one case, at least, the wife of a "successful merchant," the only daughter of a gentleman whose building allot-

ment land increased in price so enormously by the "diggings," held levees, and at her receptions was seated on a throne-fashioned chair placed on a raised dais, before which the debutantes for entrance into society and other privileged courtiers made profound salutations; but she was not to the manner born, neither was she in the purple. Her throne of state fell with the estate of her consort into Schedule B. But the honours which Mrs. Aikenhead allowed herself to accept were thrust upon her. The sanguinary current which throbbed her pulse reminded her at every beat of its royal purity; and she would not make herself common, nor cast herself before the multitudes of assemblies—they might turn round and rend her. She was a princess, a daughter of kings; and even Toorak and Lady Hotham were not ardently accepted, although by her highly esteemed, and respectable. Her latent passion was glowing and kindling into a flame. She was on the royal route, and she did not wish to justify the pretensions of any one who, in another hemisphere, might bring up a blush for the indiscretion of having been on terms of social intimacy with them, or entitled to special recognition; and for this reason she kept herself in a state of seclusion on board the ship. Her companionship, in addition to her husband and family, was her own nurse, in whose conversation and company she felt a lively interest. This intelligent, kindly-hearted woman, stood high in a profession whose peculiarly onerous and painful duties are far too lightly appreciated by the outside world. Miss Jewell entered the profession in one of the London hospitals when she was sixteen years of age, and was appointed to the surgical department, and was selected for the staff of Scutari, where she was associated with

Miss Nightingale, of whom she spoke as being nothing more than a woman, whatever penny-a-line retainers might say otherwise. She had been twenty-one years in the service of her profession, in various and distant parts of the world, when Mrs. Aikenhead engaged her for the passage to London; and if such a woman were to write and publish the incidents of her travels and manifold trials, how insignificant compared with them would the present writer's notes, and many of higher note and purpose, appear. From the fact of her patient being much in her company, she became much attached to Mrs. Aikenhead, and was rather pleased than not that the royal foible preserved them from the roystering carnivals carried on in other parts of the *Columbian's* apartments; and was glad when the incident at Aden occurred to confirm the opinion which she had always ventured respectfully to express respecting the character and pretensions of the noble blackguards to high blood relationship. Her respect for Mr. Rough was sincere, and creditable to her feelings and judgment; and she was alarmed for the consequences to Miss Aikenhead when Waterford stealthily entered their private cabin with the fiendish purpose of his unwarrantable intrusion; and when the tide of her patient's feelings turned, she carefully directed its reflux into channels which would overwhelm the impostors, and gently float the amiable scholar on its recurrent bosom into the proper haven; and in this, in her own way, succeeded perfectly, as the following incident, although only a straw on the tide, will serve to show.

About the time of the birth of their first child, the great, important, and difficult subject of font names came up to the front. The Solemn League and Covenant shep-

herd, having regard to the virtues and heroic endurance of some of his female progenitors, would have much preferred the perpetuation of their names *in memoriam*; but the catalogue was too primitive, if not plebeian, for the royal ear—there were too many Janes, and Mirrens, and Marthas, and Marys for it; “and as for the Wilhelminas, Augustinas, Falderalinas, and Disgustinas, and ither kenna whar begotten trash o’ names, he would never think o’ them for a moment; and if she had a single spark o’ pride remaining, and there was little doot on that score, she would show a better taste. But to settle the matter, as they did every other which formed the subject of controversy, amicably, he would tell her what he would propose; she might tak the namin o’ the laddies and he would tak the lassies in his ain han, if they ever had either the yin or the ither. But I warn ye,” he continued earnestly, “if ye want high-sounoden names, ye may spare yoursel the pains o’ looking oot amang the kings for them. Hoo could ony lawyer mak oot will or testament o’ sic a stane cart fu o’ names as Amraphel, Arioch, Chederlaomer, Tidal, Bera, Bertha, Shinab, Shemeber, or what ca ye him, the king of Zoar? and if ye come back to the chronicles o’ later times, no to speak o’ David, the greatest o’ them a’, they are as common as penny pies; Henrys, Charleses, Richards, Georges, Williams, Jameses, no to name Johns, of whom it doth not behoove me to speak—a’ guid soondin names on thrones and dominions, but unnoticeable amang common folk at a fair.” “And where,” said Zenobia his wife, “will you go for the names of the girls, if we have any?” “Oh, whar but amang the kings’ dochters,” replied the fond husband! “Say that we begin wi’ the dochter o’ Pharaoh the king of Egypt.” “And what,” inquired

Zenobia, "was the name of the daughter of the king of Egypt?" "Well, my dear wife, you have put a question which no man can answer either one way or another, any more than they can tell the burial-place of Moses, whose life she saved, at a place I will be able to show you in a few days' time now. We are an idolatrous race, and we make gods and fall down before them and worship them, and we think by the performance of a mere ritualistic ceremony that we impart, or that there are imparted in some mysterious manner, the gifts and graces of those we admire, but which we can no more command nor expect, merely because they are names, than we can the colour of our hair!" or that a purified heart and life are the result of the title "Christian" conferred at a baptismal font. "And to what fountain will you repair to draw the pure, uncontaminated, fresh, enduring names you desiderate?" inquired the princess. "I will go to no fountain, but to the most beautiful object in nature;" and looking at her admiringly, trippingly added, "I mean inanimate object, of course! I will go to a pure, uncontaminated, enduring source, which shall last as long as the sun and the moon endure. I will go to the symbol of promise, that while the parched and sheep-mown grass, and the withered herbs and woods and plants and flowers will be refreshed with the first and latter rains, and spring up and flourish green again, the waters will never be permitted to overwhelm us or ours. I will go to the rainbow, whose prismatic tints will solve this difficulty, and distinguish our daughters, if we ever have any, by the prettiest names that ever were uttered by a minister's lips." And that is the reason why the five daughters of this amiable couple are named Emeralda, Carmina, Violetta, Orangina, and Mazarina, and how

their pet abbreviates came to be naturally M, Cary, Vy, Ora, and Mazy. These abbreviates were, however, only permitted to be used, or acknowledged, in ordinary and dishabille moments; on all other occasions no such liberties must be allowed; and Mrs. Aikenhead was astonished and grieved when she learned that the sailors had really petified the name of her son, their only son John, a name which, although it had not been that of her husband and his sires for generations, would have been adopted by herself as the most stately and statuesque of any to be found in the royal vocabulary. There was something so monarchical and magna-chartacal and sonorous about it, that she would not, if she knew it, allow it to be cut nor carved in any way. But it *was* altered; and the little fellow, still in arms, but as often in those of the sailors as of others, seemed to like the new style; and there was a mutiny in the little camp, and she did not know what to do, and sent for Mr. Ruff, and after laying the matter before him and her reasons for questioning the liberty which had been taken with such a name, Ralph settled the subject by saying, that as John had not been diminished, but increased by the addition of a diphthong, out of compliment to the sailors, whose pet he was, and whose life they had saved by preventing him from falling overboard more than once, it would not abstract from the boy's dignity by allowing them still to call him Johnnie. "Well, Mr. Ruff, I am much obliged to you. Out of respect to your judgment, and seeing, as you say, that the royal name has suffered no mutilation by the addition of a diphthong—a matter which I did not think of before—and in compliment to the sailors who saved his life more than once, they may, when they want him, call for Johnnie, but not for Joh;

which would be the absurd result of cutting off a single letter.

In the forenoon, in braces, trios, and clusters, elbowing and battering-ramming their more sedate companions, inspirited by the instrumental band of the ship, and keeping time to its brazen notes, were the suns and satellites of the period, whirling in mystic revolutions in the eccentric orbit of the deck, while groups here and there of more contemplative mood were studying the beauty, grandeur, and geography of the landward scenery. While skirting the base of the Abyssinian shore, Mr. Aikenhead and his party, in the finest frame of body and mind, and in the enjoyment of perfect peace, with a keen eye to pasture land, exclaimed in reference to the barren condition of the bald hills we were passing, "Weans, weans, guidwife, Ralph! no a drap o' rain ever falls on these bare hills, no a blade o' grass. If there had been rain there would be grass there, I ken by the nature o' the bare banes o' the hills; but there is no grass there, which there would be if there had been rain;" and the sheep farmer bewailed the absence of rain and pasture, as if his own flocks and herds were perishing on the hill sides and in the ravines for lack of moisture and grass. The ranges of hills indented with deep gorges which discover the scoured sides of the rifted rocks which line the Abyssinian shore, close in by which we were nearly a day sailing, are not conical or spiry-peaked upheavings like the sharp-pointed lofty mountain chains and groups which constitute the main features of the regions more inland. The time being anterior to the great historical expeditionary feat, Bruce of Kinnaird, and not Theodorus, formed the chief topic of conversation; and Ralph's

reading furnished fine opportunities for the younger members of the family acquiring seasonable information on the more prominent subjects of the intrepid and accomplished traveller's explorations. The interest with which the Red Sea will always be invested is too familiar a subject to be tolerated here; excepting Massowah, Babel-mandeb, with Sinai and its outlying ranges, which appeared from the ship close enough in outline to be portfolioed, and the dramas for which its shores and bed were the marvellous scenes, constitute all that is worth a passenger's special notice. In approaching the head of the gulf at Suez, preparations to bid adieu to Captain Pender* and his officers were going on, interrupted occasionally by episodes sometimes of a rather distressing nature. One case was that of an aspiring young gentleman, one of the ship's officers into whose heart Cupid had sent an unerring shaft, which affected him to such a degree as to cause Mr. and Mrs. Aikenhead to procure the potent offices of the captain to prevent disagreeable consequences—one of which was the determination of the stricken dear to leave the ship and his engagement with the owners, to follow his fortunes with Mr. Aikenhead's family, with one of whom he had expressed a resolution to live and die, or die for. That resolution had not been suddenly formed; it was the result of deliberation and of affection for the young lady, and in spite of wind or weather he would pursue his own course. As for her fortune, his lineage would be a set-off against that, however great it might be. He did not say what his lineage was, but it

* It was with much concern that the writer learned on returning from his last visit to Australia, that this genial and accomplished sailor had perished with his own ship and all hands in the eastern seas.

seemed to be a descent in unbroken succession from Derryname to Cahirciveen; and the commander, who reluctantly interfered, pronounced his immediate descent in unbroken succession for the period of four days (until the anchor was weighed), from duty above to confinement to his berth below, which fiat was duly executed under the vehement protest of the exile of Erin, and of the audibly expressed sympathy of a crowd of bystanders, of whom Miss Carmina, the innocent cause of his exile, was not the least inconsiderate.

As I wished to be as light-handed as possible in taking the overland route, I despatched from Melbourne by the *Champion of the Seas*, Captain M'Kirdy, the bulk of my luggage, and only encumbered myself with a portmanteau and a small leathern bag and a few ebony walking sticks from Ceylon, and some trumpery from Aden. I could manage with but very little assistance to move about unencumbered, and so, as soon as the anchor felt the ground at the head of the channel, I, with two companions, unwilling to wait on the Company's tender, took the chance of a small boat which the Arab watermen from Suez had there in numbers sufficient to cause competition, which is a capital thing when it favours us, whatever may be thought of it by the competitors. The distance from the channel to the point of debarkation may be about four miles, in very shallow water the most of the way. As a good deal of controversy had been going on for some time respecting this locality, as being the passage which enabled the fugitive Israelites to place an impassable gulph between themselves and the impetuous hosts of the obdurate-hearted king of Egypt, we felt some interest in being able to look about us in the small boat on the disputed

localities ; but as this is a subject for biblical geographers and other savants, we will rather say what we saw at Suez, which was very little indeed worth noting. With the exception of the English hotel, Shepherd's, Suez is about the most miserable hole it is possible to be in. The filthy and uneasy condition of camels, dogs, and people brought up recollections of the third plague, of which the sand-hole where the inhabitants live retains some evidences. Wearying with the monotony of the place, I, with two or three other friends, hired a boat and made an excursion back to the steamer, which turned out latterly to be an arduous and rather dangerous affair. After spending several hours aboard, the sea became boisterous, black, and ominous-looking ; there appeared to be something phenomenon-like about this spontaneous turbulence of the water ; there was no wind nor murky cloud to account for the sea rising, and the coal-black colour of the gulf. I got down into the boat, but could not get my friends to follow, as they seemingly were better employed. Our boatmen threatened with menacing signs to leave without them, and pointed to the rising sea, and the dashing of their cumbrous bark against the ship's side. I at last got hold of the loiterers ; the tide was ebbing, and our men had a long pull before them. It got dark, pitch dark ; but after getting clear of the deep channel and into shallow water, the men got into the water, which was not over knee-deep, and hauled the boat for about three hours, guided by blazing fires placed at intervals either on floating rafts or mounds, we could not see nor be told which. Their simple, monotonous chorus produced a strange feeling ; they seem to be much in want of a poet. We made a mistake in not having

engaged an interpreter, as it was here that Bonaparte, like his obdurate and sceptical prototype, was so nearly overwhelmed with the flood. To add eclat to his genius—which he wished to exhibit to the world as being superior to the difficulties which would have given Moses a prey to the spoiler and his Deliverer's enemies, their defiance of whom involved them in a catastrophe so overwhelming and irretrievable as to excite wonder at the blindness of the mind and the hardness of the heart which could not perceive the strong arm made bare for their deliverance, and yield to the power which had saved his chosen from so many straits which, in their protracted pilgrimage and period of probation and reformation of manners, they had been exposed to—passing over on the dry gravel to the African side of the creek, which the channel at ebb tide seems like, and over which he assumed that Moses must have crossed, he waited for the complete reflux of the tide, and attempted to cross, got beyond his depth, and floundered or fell from his saddle, and was dragged out of the deep into shallow water by the Arabs who were waiting in the neighbourhood.

On reaching the hotel in safety, about which some of our friends had doubts, we found it merry in the hall, where the beards wagged all, and such beards! over which no barbarous razor had travelled for years. The clerk of the establishment had received a blank card order at the instance of Mrs. Aikenhead to open the ports to all comers, who were to hack and manger at her charges; while she, with her husband and family, enjoyed the rest and privacy which their condition required, especially as there was a matter of much importance to arrange, an engagement to ratify, which

none but those immediately interested could with propriety be permitted to witness. From their daily intercourse Mr. Ruff and his patron had arrived at conclusions in respect to their future connection, which it was desirable should be announced to the family by as imposing a ceremonial as the circumstances at this stage would permit, and which proposed relative connection had his lady's unhesitating consent. After refreshing themselves externally with ablutions, supplemented by the judicious application of rich and rare cosmetics, and beautiful for ever waters brought from Joseph's Well in the neighbourhood, and internally with the best viands which Mr. Shepherd's catering ability could afford, and when all things had settled themselves into the most propitious condition of elegant arrangement, Mr. Rough, according to a concerted plan, was announced; and after going the round which etiquette has rendered imperative, and which the sulkiest cynic who ever made his sneers at the formal proprieties of social life an excuse for his own impolite demeanour, would surely permit without a snarl under these special circumstances, Mr. Aikenhead, taking the loving cup, and looking upon the redness of the rare vintage at the moment when it was giving its colour, and when it was moving itself aright, thus gave and took the pledge:—"Mrs. Aikenhead, my dearly beloved and loving wife; Mr. Ralph Ruff, my much esteemed, honourable, and honoured friend; my dear, obedient, and filial children, for whose present and future well-being I am always yearning, and for the love of whom my very bowels melt in tenderest affection; nurse and governess, whose services your mistress so highly values, and which she will in her own way acknowledge—I hope we have all in some way or other offered our

acknowledgments to the Supreme Giver of all good for his mercies, which endureth for ever, and of which we have been the too unworthy objects. The Being who made us—ay, and made us what we are in body, in mind, in health, condition, and family and relative circumstances—is an omnipresent, as well as an omniscient and omnipotent Being, who under all circumstances can, and does, direct and control all things to the end of his own glory and his children's good; to that Being let us here and now erect our Ebenezer.

“The days of the years of my pilgrimage have been full of blessings, albeit mingled with some trials, without which we would not know what blessings are. Although the days of these years are less in number than those which my fathers, by reason of more strength and less friction, attained, I feel that by reason of accumulating infirmities they cannot be protracted long. The chief purpose next to conducting you, my children, to institutions where you will have the benefit of acquiring knowledge under conditions which the land of your nativity is energetically endeavouring to supply, but which it has not yet reached, is to consult and place myself for a few months under the care of the most eminent physicians to which Providence and my friends in London may direct me. I will leave you to return to Australia, where my presence, for your sakes, will be inevitably required. Although you will be ever present to your father's thoughts—and you will, I have no doubt, often think of him—he will in person be far away from you. You will be alone with your mother, under her care, control, and guidance; but I am glad to be able to say that in these onerous and responsible duties my absence will be faithfully and efficiently supplied by a gentleman in whose

scholastic and philosophic attainments, in whose judgment and discretion, in whose intellectual, moral, and religious being, and in whose desire to discharge the duties which for the love he has for you he has under pressing solicitations undertaken; I have the fullest confidence. This faith in his ability and disposition is shared by your mother, who will, in a manner which none of her sex can excel, express the sentiments of our united hearts on the auspicious relation in which Mr. Ruff will stand to you in the capacity which I have mentioned. Mr. Rough, before I pledge you in this ruby, which is from our own wine press, and from grapes of our own tending, and unpolluted though it be, if used, should never be abused, permit me to congratulate myself on having obtained your consent to accept the position which you are so well adapted to fill. I do not know another man to whom I would have committed the responsibility of stimulating the intellectual and mental condition of my offspring. When you have finished your tour in Palestine, for which you leave us at Cairo, and find it convenient to join us at Jersey, where, after visiting my kindred in the land of my fathers, I intend, so long as I remain in Europe, to reside, you will meet with a reception which will be but an earnest of the esteem and affection with which you will be regarded, and of the forming of ties which I hope will never be broken. You will be my confidential adviser, as well as my confidant in all matters pertaining to the disposal of my worldly estate, as well as the trusted instructor of your charge; and in this respect I doubt not but your impartial principles will guide you to the same conclusions at which I have arrived, which are, first—I would make due and ample provision for my five

daughters equally, and in regard to whom I have to say that during the periods of their nonage they will, I hope, form no associations without the knowledge and consent of their natural and constituted guardians. But after they have reached those years of discretion which use and wont recognize as such, they may not be coerced, although influenced, in their choice. My own principle is to look down on no worthy man, whatever may be his origin, obscure or prominent; or to disinherit or to disown no child of mine, for following the dictates of her heart and judgment." A sudden glance from a neighbouring couch induced the orator, in an apologetic tone, to say "that of course these were words in course, and strictly incidental to the subject on which he was speaking, and had no relation to any unpleasant circumstances connected with the voyage, which were all buried under the blue waves of the Red Sea! It was not for frail, erring man to determine the times and the seasons, nor under the influence of misdirection, pride, or passion, to inflict injury on any of his children, the casting of whose lot, with the best intentions, might turn out unfortunate from the prodigality or otherwise of husbands. Much injustice was often done by preferences and partialities of parents, who seem to forget that all their offspring are equally of their flesh and blood, and have equal claims to all the privileges which that kinship implies, and which cannot be disregarded with impunity, and which will bring down, sooner or later, retribution on the persons, families, or estates of the perpetrators. Second, I will supplement the settlement I have already made on my wife, according to the measure in which Providence has blessed our efforts to provide things honest in the sight of all men, without the imposition of any

conditions. My heritable estate, together with the residue of available assets (after whatever bequests I may make, including the endowment of a life-boat for my own native birth, and an annuity in perpetuity to the Royal Life-boat Society), will, as a matter of political propriety in the present infantile condition of Australia, without reference to laws of entail or primogeniture abstractly considered, revert to my son, my only son; who, if he is wise and prudent, and influenced by patriotic motives, will be in a position to assist in developing the multifarious and abundant resources of its wealth, and promoting the social elevation of its people, and the stability and civilizing grandeur of what I believe, all things considered, will be the finest dominion owning the sway of the British sceptre; not a fitful, petulant dominion, but a dominion formed of the entire group of the Australian or southern colonies, including Tasmania and the provinces of New Zealand, and the whole Australian continent, from Port Jackson to Port Freemantle, and from the Bight to the Gulf of Carpentaria—a dominion making and administering its own laws, under the auspices and integrity of the British sceptre, owning and honouring its imperial sway, and bound to it by the enduring bonds of mutual interest and affection;" to which sanguine, far-seeing, but not unreasonable prognostications, the newly-installed tutor did not demur; who addressing himself more immediately to Mrs. Aikenhead than to her lord, in manly tones assured her that the position which Mr. A. had with her approbation assigned him was duly appreciated, the duties connected with which would not be altogether incompatible with the profession which his previous studies were intended to prepare him for. But should their due performance

interfere with his professional prospects, the subject, in the event of Mr. Aikenhead's absence in Australia, would be laid before her in time for the appointment of a successor, who would, he hoped, be more thoroughly furnished with the qualifications suitable for such an important charge than he was. But whatever position in life the future had in store for him, he respectfully assured her that never, never, while the blood coursed his veins or while memory maintained her seat, would he cease to cherish, with feelings of liveliest gratitude, recollections of the kindness and favour of which at their hands he had been the undeserving object. The effect of this short address, delivered with the earnestness and candour which formed a leading feature in his character, was painfully visible on the lady to whom it was, as if formally, spoken. The play of the varied emotions of which those features were the certain index, was indicative of uneasiness. Was it that she was chagrined at the thought that the ultimate position which under her auspices Ralph might attain would not be superior to any profession? Or was the status of a Professor, even if it came to that, to be compared to the dignity and influence which a learned landed gentleman might aspire to? Or was it that the flush and fade which alternately took possession of her chiselled cheeks told of hopes and fears, rising and falling with the changing construction which she put upon his words when he said, "The subject would be laid before her in time for the appointment of a successor?" No, no; her confusion of face, such as it was, was usurped during the suppression of the feeling of pain which the coals of fire he had laid on her head produced, and of admiration of the generous nature which could speak of perpetuating the recollection of

kindnesses, when her heart told her that the very first words she addressed to him were unkind, cutting, and burning, as if inflicted with red-hot pincers? But such was her self-possession, and consciousness of the power she had over her emotions, that she commanded her features instantly to resume their native, dignified repose, and dignity and grace immediately reigned over all that inimitably moulded classical contour. Taking from a castellated ivory toilet cabinet at hand a phial of cinnamon and cassia, she dropped a drop of the commingled perfume on the purple velvet lining of a jewel casket which she opened; and dropping some drops on her handkerchief she wafted it round her body, and impregnated all her garments, and assumed the duty of thanking Mr. Ruff for accepting a position which promised such important results to her family, and would insure to them all the advantages and pleasures which his society could not fail to produce. She stood erect, and turning to communicate inaudibly with her husband, afforded a fine opportunity of surveying that matchless presence—her person, adorned with a magnificent, yet upon her, a becoming costume—pink satin boots clasping the ankle tight, with light blue silk chequered lashings, golden bracelets encircling her wrists, tassel boughs in the form of epaulets hanging from her shoulders over her lathe-turned arms, Tyrian purple band and stomacher girdling her waist, and studded with stars formed of gems of purest water and rarest lustre, head-dress glowing with diamonds and pearls, imbedded in a texture which had been wrought into the form of a tiara, and over all a Brussels gossamer elongated into a train which her maid dexterously threw over her when she rose, chastened but did not subdue

the lustre of the queenly embodiment advancing to ward Ralph with a mien as majestic as that of her sisterly namesake of Palmyra, when placing the laurel wreath on the brow of her victorious general. Wafting as she walked the odoriferous exhalations from her needle-wrought raiment, she took a gold-mounted locket which depended from her neck, containing a miniature likeness of her husband, and touching a spring the back of the pendant ornament flew open, revealing a secret chamber, from which she took the family visiting *carte blanche*, which she had not hitherto an opportunity of formally returning to him; which, she said, she did as an earnest of her perfect satisfaction of the untainted purity of his character, and of her respect for himself, which she hoped would be reciprocated. She then took a diamond-mounted ring of Ballarat gold, and put it on his finger as a token of her approval of his deportment during the voyage; and then took from the same casket, from which rose a perfume as of incense to the offering, a chaste nuptial ring, and with a countenance beaming with maternal affection, said in tones of sweetest benignity, that whatever the lot in life might be which the future had in store for him, if that lot might be influenced by his own inclinations, his advances to it would never be marred by her; that her happiness as a parent would in a great measure depend upon her children's choice; and if the object of that choice in the case of any of them should be the embodiment of one-half the attainments and virtues which shone so conspicuously in his own being, he was at liberty to place the emblematic offering which she now made on the appropriate finger at the hymeneal altar of the object of his pure affection; and with the last words trembling

on her vermillion lips, she opened her arms, and falling upon his neck, gave evident expression to her emotion. The emotion was infectious. Ralph's whole form shook with excitement and embarrassment. The patriarch shepherd, with streaming eyes, stood looking on his flock with outstretched arm and open hand, as if bestowing the blessing he had invoked. The young ladies had incontinently fallen in pairs into mutual embraces, and little Mazy into those of the governess, weeping ; and little Johnnie, Johnnie Aikenhead, wee Johnnie Croesus, nestling deeply into the bosom of his affectionate nurse, was sobbing for what he could not tell, nor did not try, as nobody could ask him what was the matter. His nursing mother was too much affected with the solemnity of the scene to inquire. Creep closer yet, Johnnie, and sleep on that kindly bosom, which you will remember, after awaking to a full sense of your privileges and responsibilities as the heir to a noble inheritance, when by the faithful ministrations of your richly endowed tutor your intellect will be filled with the fulness of all desirable knowledge, and your whole soul, heart, mind, and estate consecrated to the amelioration of the social condition of the great Antipodean family, in the midst of whom your useful life will have been spent, and when you will be hailed as the Australian Peabody, and the evening of your life, like your advent on to it, will be surrounded with blessings, and when all the people shall call you blessed.—(*Exit Eavesdropper, whose occupation in that inquisitive capacity is, as far as this voyage is concerned, gone.*)

THE Isthmus of Suez.

The personal luggage of the passengers had been packed on and despatched with camels to the railway terminus at Alexandria during the evening; and early in the morning we started for Cairo in hard, shabby-looking vehicles, which the Egyptian transit company dignified with the names of omnibuses, whose capacity in squeezing condition only permitted six passengers each, drawn by four quadrupeds, two mules at the pole, and two Arab horses for leaders. Glad to escape from the pestiferous precincts of the miserable place, we hailed the smiling morn on the opening expanse. The novelty of the position and the associations connected with the regions we were rapidly drawing into were exciting and cheery; and forgetting that we would be about eighteen hours jammed up in the confined box, we were tolerant of the inconvenience at first; but when Sol put on his spurs and rode up the sky, his heat, with its recoil from the gravelly ground we were careering over, and the perspiration, aggravated by the immobility of the crammed and reeking freight of the ricketty affair, was by no means so tolerable. Since the railway was opened from Cairo to Suez, travelling the distance is easy, pleasant, and brief; but to be a day and a half in a melting-pot measuring noses, is not so very desirable. If there had been anything to relieve the monotony of the ride, a tree, a tuft of grass, or any sign of herbage; but there were none, and glad we always were when we reached the posting

stations, at which there was always something to scrutinize, to make us merry or sad. The condition of the people who lounged about these stations caused the latter feeling to predominate. What cruel, slavish yoke of bondage and superstition must have been employed to degrade and subdue human beings, invested with the lineaments and endowed with the physical and mental attributes of men, into such abject humiliation, it is pitiable to contemplate. The perversion of their moral nature is absolutely afflicting ; lying, cheating, stealing, begging, and grumbling seem to be the normal state of a people living on the very confines of European civilization, and which the aggressive principles of Christian and commercial enterprize are only now bringing within their grasp, and which promise ere long to effect a salutary change in the entire aspect of Mahomedan subordination. Lieutenant Waghorn, one of the greatest benefactors of the age in this respect, with his knowledge, faith, enterprize, and perseverance, has opened a path which will lead to marvellous results, and yet, even in these days of storied urns and animated busts, there has been no suitable memorial for him.* We were reminded of this when meeting several strings of camels loaded with Tennent's pale ale, containing twenty-four dozen quart bottles on each beast of burden's back. Few incidents worth noting occurred—one notable one excepted—and as the like of it is not to be witnessed every day, and from the novelty of the affair, I will report for the sake of Epsom habitués,

* It was telegrammed from Suez, November 22, that this is to be done. It is hardly necessary to derange the text by deleting matter containing a suggestion which has been in MS. several months and in the press before the subject was mooted. My reflection was directed to the Egyptian transit company without any reference to the proprietors of the canal.

AN EXCITING HORSE RACE IN THE DESERT.

After breakfasting at one of the stations, and when we had got seated on the 'bus, the leaders on being started broke away, having by their rearing and beating the air unhooked the swingle trees which attached them to the pole of the chariot; careered at a tremendous pace over the boundless plain; and maddened by the dashing of the furniture at their heels, like a can at a dog's tail, they bounded away at a furious rate; and being banded together by their bits and head gear, they galloped head and head, now describing a crescent, and again a beautiful curve and circle, and came up nearly at one time to one of our companion busses ahead of us, which had pulled up to witness the race. There were the two Arab steeds at large, in their own native desert, urged forward by the walloping splinter bar behind, administering punishment in a style which a Newmarket jockey might envy, without any visible boundary to their career but the distant horizon. But what could they do but stop when they had enough of it; which enabled the followers of the fugitives to capture and bring them back to the bus, to which they were again hooked, and with less animation than when they left, whipped on to the end of their appointed stage. Just after starting from this station we had a fine mirage, and another, and another a few hours after. I tried hard by rubbing my eyes to dispel the illusion, but I could not; the appearance of the blue lake was still there, and remained until the peculiar condition of the atmosphere by which it is produced changed. We reached Cairo about ten o'clock at night, and got accommodated at a fine hotel; and after getting groomed

and supped retired to bed, but, alas, not to sleep, but to toss to and fro until the dawning of the day, when we sallied forth to make some rounds in Cairo before the heat of noon tide would make it a burden; and in our tour getting a sight of Cheops, pronounced by the Arabs "Chops," we returned to our hotel, and after breakfast and outward equipment my two companions and self engaged a dragoman (interpreter), who found us donkeys and drivers to take us to the

PYRAMIDS OF GIZEH,

towards which we started about noon, a very unsuitable time. I may state here as I will have occasion in the course of my narrative to name them at any rate, that my two companions were Mr. Alexander Macmillan of Geelong, and Mr. Vincent, gunmaker, Jersey, Channel Islands; and that we were the only persons who had taken the precaution to take our passages no further than Egypt with the mail, which left us at liberty to adopt any course which inclination or convenience might suggest. The whole of the other passengers per the *Columbian*, having paid for their journey right through to London, had to keep pace with the mails, which could not suffer detention, caused much chagrin among many that they could not avail themselves of the opportunity of visiting many interesting objects on their way. The best time to leave Cairo for Cheops is about two in the morning, to cross the Nile at Gizeh, Old Cairo, before sunrise, and to approach the rising ridge of the desert at early dawn. This is the coolest period of the twenty-four hours; but our plans included so many objects which we wished to accomplish in the course of three days, that my friends were induced by

my impatience to start about twelve o'clock, the very worst time to attempt the feat, but were tempted to do so by the representations of our rascally dragoman. Having mustered we started for the Ferry, six miles from Cairo, at a canter; and I would advise any one who contemplates a journey in Egypt to take some practice in the art of donkey-riding before leaving home, if he has not been accustomed to the saddle; as if I had not from the necessities of my position in Australia, I would many a time have been spilled on the ground. The driving boys from behind remind the dumb brutes of the value of time by a poke with a sharp-pointed stick, and at every prog the animal performs a buck jump, which but for the large padded pommel of the saddle would send even a good equestrian over the ears of the ass, if he does not calculate the times and the seasons when these visitations may be expected. On reaching Old Cairo, and while waiting for the boat which was to take the lot of us, four asses and their riders with the "poker" on foot, who with the two ferrymen made the number of ears on board twenty-two, we got provided with sperm candles and other necessaries for the purpose of "doing" the great pyramid in real traveller style. Reaching the opposite shore in safety, and scrambling up the sandbank from the margin of the river, which at that season of the year (May) was low Nile, and making our way up and over an alluvial plain intersected with narrow irrigating canals, which were and would be dry until flood-time, we ultimately reached the sands of the desert on the edge of which Cheops and a lesser pyramid stand, with the renowned Sphinx between them reposing in solemn grandeur, it is said. I failed in being impressed with any such feeling; but

as I was the subject of the same insensibility in respect to the pyramids themselves, I will refrain from saying anything further on the matter, as the Gall-and-Spurzheimites would very soon find out the absence of the bump "veneration" on my cranium, as they did as conveniently detect the presence of self-esteem after, as they said, I had manifested it while detecting an imposition which one of the disciples was practising at a public lecture. On our way up we overtook a gentleman whom we recognized as living at the same hotel, from the circumstance of having sat near him at breakfast. He was a Roman Catholic priest from St. Louis in France, and from the texture of his cloth, superfine, and dark olive colour, evidently of a high order in the church. It turned out that he had recently acquired a little of the English language, and as I had not altogether forgotten the smattering of French I was obliged to pick up while employed in France some few years anterior to this interview, we managed to get along very pleasantly, which we did with our feet nearly touching the ground; and if it had not been for the long skirts of his finely cut and fashioned surtout, he might have easily got off and on his donkey without the assistance of a stirrup at all. He strongly advised me not to attempt the ascent, particularly at that time of the day, when from the intensity of the heat few if any would be about to render assistance in the event of violence being done, which he assured us was very likely to be the case. I have spoken so much about heat that material for apt illustration is about exhausted, until I get a rest and supplied with additional funds; but the reader may judge of its force at the time, when I say that, while alone with the courteous clergyman

examining a passage to a grotto which had recently been revealed under the Sphinx's foundations, the drifted sand with which it was nearly choked, although if a thermometer had been dipped into it the mercury would have mounted to 70° or 80°, felt so low compared with the heat of the sand exposed to the vertical rays of the sun outside, that my feet felt so cool and refreshing, that, like an ox standing in a lake or marshy ground on a warm day, I would have gladly remained longer than my grumbling companions outside would have permitted. Although impressed with the advice of my reverend friend, I, as I had suffered already from the noontide heat, elected to run the risk of ascending, and instructed our interpreter to engage six Bedouin Arabs to assist the three of us to mount, which he did, at the rate of five shillings each assistant. We all started together; but I found when a few steps up that I was alone, with four instead of two Bedouins; my friends Macmillan and Vincent had vanished. This seemed ominous; but I was drawn and pushed up the arduous steps, heedless of my remonstrances to slacken the pace. Every step being about a yard in depth, the labour of planting my feet on each succeeding course of granite was overpoweringly exhausting. This furious work was continued without intermission until we reached about half way up, when I forcibly sat down completely overcome. We had engaged a boy to carry a bottle of water, both of which we obtained at the draw-well of a small village on the edge of the desert. I now wanted the water bottle, but boy and bottle were *non est*. My four helps commenced groaning me from head to feet, feeling their way down as if for my purse; and as it contained all that was to pay for my passage

home from Alexandria to London, I felt alarmed. These desert or pyramid Arabs can speak a few words of English, but as I cannot imitate their style, which would be profitless at any rate, I will repeat what passed in plain English, as I understood them. I was alone and beyond the reach of help, in the hands of four regardless villains; I felt alarmed for my safety. Seeing that they were intent on robbing me, and with violence if recourse was necessary, I inquired what they meant by rubbing me down in that manner. They said it was to keep up the circulation of the blood, as from my exhausted condition they were afraid I might fall away; and well they might, after having had recourse to every stratagem to produce that result Resting his hand on the outside of the pocket containing my purse, one of them inquired if I was afraid of money! "No!" "Very good Englishman! will you give money?" "No, I will not; I will pay you what you were engaged for, and no more, at least until we return." The four then seized me by the wrists and arms, two at each, and led me sidelong round a corner, facing the desert, and out of sight of the sheik or people below; and when I inquired what they meant by that, they said it was for the shade from the sun! A pyramid! a vertical sun!! and a shade!!! I wrenched and wriggled myself from their gripe, and if there had been only two instead of four, I would, and could, have knocked them down. The spirit of resistance within me gave me a feeling of unwonted strength; but I was in the hands of these treacherous Philistines, with odds against me too powerful to be successfully resisted. I then demanded, as courageously as I could, to know what it was they wanted! They said, money! Now if I had

been possessed of a loose sovereign or other small money, I would gladly have given it; but I was afraid to excite their cupidity by taking out my purse, by discovering to them the amount of gold I had; and parleyed with them, offering to give them a sovereign when we reached the bottom. No; they wanted it then. No, too; I would not give it. They then wished me to proceed upwards, but I would not another step; they knew full well that I would be farther away from assistance at the top. I said I would go down myself; and so I could, although I could not ascend; and was proceeding to do so and was interrupted by one of them, in whose face I held my doubled fist, and told him to his teeth that he was a bad Bedouin; and turning towards the next worst scamp, I menacingly told him that he also was a very bad Bedouin; and to the other two who seemed better disposed, I said, "You are a good Bedouin, and you are a good Bedouin; I will give you, and I will give you, money." Although I did not intend it, the effect was a split in the camp; the house divided against itself. How much would I give? a sovereign! Give it now? No; I will give the half of it when we get half-way down, and the other half at the bottom;" which being agreed to, I was allowed to sit down, and then ensued a reaction from the vehement excitement of the previous minutes. I was parched and perishing of thirst; I was oppressed, and felt as if a grasshopper would have been a burden. I was in Sydney at Christmas, which is midsummer, and left Melbourne in April, before the heat of the summer months had abated; was in the Indian Ocean and approaching latitudes whose summers were also approaching. I was missing a winter altogether, and did miss it, as I reached London

in June. In Ceylon, Aden, the Red Sea, over the desert to Cairo; and now under a sun, whose scorching heat reflected from the hard granite, would have been intolerable under any circumstances, a profound and solemn feeling of isolation took possession of me. I looked down and over the fertile valley of the Nile in the direction of Alexandria and the Mediterranean, and around me on the magnificent panorama, which included scenes of historical interest which will never die, and on pyramid after pyramid, until blending with the horizon they became on the perspective less and less, until they faded away from my wearied vision. I felt a lassitude creeping over me, which my two friends perceiving roused me up, and assisted me half way down, which left only a fourth part of the distance to descend. They here halted, and demanded the half sovereign I had promised—all of them, my two *friends* included. Unwilling still to show my gold, I had recourse to a stratagem which I thought would circumvent them; but I reckoned wrong. I asked one of my friends if he had a half sovereign, on which he pulled out his store of gold, done up in a calico rag; which, when he had fully unwound, I took from it a half sovereign and put it in my pocket, which I buttoned, thinking that I would make one of them at least have an interest in my preservation. I had no sooner done this than they left me and talked among themselves in Arabic, which to me sounded like a knell. They came hastily up, and seizing me as before, two at each wrist, led me forcibly along the terrace, which from its glazed and foot-worn appearance immediately suggested the thought that they were leading me to the large vault, which they were, and

of which I was soon convinced when we reached its black yawning mouth. I struggled to get free, when, placing their hands on my shoulders and under my legs, they lifted me up in spite of my remonstrances and threats to inform the English consul at Cairo, and I fainted in their hands. Whether it was this and their fear of being observed from below, or the threat, I cannot tell; but on recovering from my swoon I found them standing around me anxiously. The perspiration which broke forth revived me; I felt refreshed, and was further revived on seeing a group of men and donkeys below; but they would not allow me to move until I had made a promise that I would not inform the sheik, which I at once did, and broke it soon afterwards. When we reached the bottom they wanted to carry me shoulder high, but which I declined. I found Mr. Macmillan sitting with a rug over him, and brown and black with drifted sand. He had only proceeded three steps up, when his suspicions were aroused on finding that he had four helps, and they were examining with curiosity a valuable ring on his finger; and he paid them their promised pay to be let alone. Mr. Vincent was still on the pyramid, with four instead of two Arabs. They parted us, immediately after starting, in different directions. I did not pay my men, as I did not wish to break my word until I would see Vincent safe; as I concluded they were robbing him too, and informed the sheik of my suspicions, and told him I would hold him responsible for my friend's safety, when from some talismanic motion, a couple of Bedouins were sent in search, and soon came down with Mr. Vincent shoulder high, and as white as a sheeted corpse. He would not tell me

much about his treatment, but enough to satisfy me that he had been ill used. He had promised not to tell, but I, as it was an extorted promise, considered on the assumed moral rule that mine would be more honoured in the breach than in the observance, told all about it; and would, if it had been at all convenient, have taken proceedings against the sheik, who is the manager of Cheops, and who receives tribute from the government by participating in the charge made for assistants. I paid them five shillings more than I had stipulated for, in consideration of the feeling manifested when I fainted. We had still a tremendous battle to fight to get through the swarms of desert Arabs, and had to use fists, sticks, and feet to fight through backsheesh. It is said that Naples swarms with beggars, but Arabs are all beggars. We managed at last to get to the Nile, and in crossing over told the boatmen to land us on the tongue of the island of Rhadda, situated about half over, where we bathed,* but in plunging in gulped a mouthful of Nile water, which was anything but sweet or savoury—a nasty muddy mouthful it was. The exercise of swimming about, and the absorption of the water by my body cooled it, and in some degree quenched my burning thirst. We halted between Old and Grand Cairo at an Englishman's hotel, where we were cooled with Claret more copiously than I care about reporting. We reached the hotel in time to prepare for dinner, at which the company were being seated, and among the number was the St. Louis priest, to whom I was almost ashamed to own the verification of his prediction; but I did, and received his sympathy too, as he said he

* This is the spot stated to be where the infant Moses was found.

had only acquired the information which he gave me from having been in Cairo and with friends several days.*

I next morning, in company with Mr. Vincent, went to a Turkish bath, erected B.C. many years, and was dipt to the chin in a hot-water stone trough in a condition which the Pall Mall casual would have shirked. I was plunged in again and again, and laid on the flags and scraped by a Turk like a cook at a cod-fish; from that I was led across the area of the building to a cooler and cleaner one, and again laid on the pavement and rubbed and scraped as before; and after a copious ablution with colder water, of a rather heart-searching nature, I was taken to a third, empty, and laid down in it, when a venerable man with a beard and vestments like Aaron's, having a bowl of cold enough water, threw it over me, with a benediction, I suppose. I was then led, passively—I had delivered myself into their hands, and went through the entire ceremonial as if it had been a religious rite—to a dry, inclined bed, formed of boards covered with a dubious carpet, on which I was laid, when the pards tackled me again with their gloves in a style which made me writhe like a malefactor receiving his moiety of stripes, but without a cheep or whine. When I thought they had finished, I found they were only commencing. After nearly flaying my body with friction-towels, they commenced the manipulating process, and with tintinnabulation time to their own music

* In relating this adventure at various times after coming home, my friends were invariably surprised that I had not been armed with pistols; but what would have been the worth of arms, when a person has to be hauled up by his arms, and when, if he had them in his pocket, they (the pistols), might be used against himself. The best and safest way is to go with little more than *pays their fee*.

tapped and sounded me all over with their heating palms and fingers. They then started at my right foot great toe and made it crack, and ran over the remaining toes of both feet as a first lesson learner would the notes of the gamut. They took my ankle joints and knees and made them crack. They then visited my hands and made every finger and knuckle joint crick crack. My elbows and shoulder joints, yielding to the force of circumstances, made ominous cracks. "Well, are you done now?" "No." One of the fellows took my head in his hands, and with a sudden jerk made the socket of the universal joint, situated about this region in the neck, quake. But they had not finished with me yet; although I had some notion that their ultimate intention was to do that. The man who had undertaken my head still kept hold of it, while another undertook my poor feet, as if they were going to coffin a corpse; but they had no such mortuary intention. It was of a more benevolent character than that. They wished me to live a little longer than I had been doing in the world of late, and pulling by head and feet they stretched my body, refitting the joints, and by this means elongated my person to an extent which would have made me, stand at least an inch higher under Sergeant M'Donald's royal standard. Their operations being finished in this department, my tormentors covered me with a blanket, which, to all appearance, was the oldest inhabitant in the establishment; but I did not concern myself about that so much as I did about the probability of its being inhabited! I was then allowed to rest, after they had placed on the small round table beside me some tobacco with a rich aroma, which I declined, preferring that of a cup of coffee, which soothed me after my

sufferings. In this reclining position I should have remained an hour, but did not above twenty minutes, during which I felt a degree of exhilaration which prepared me for my day's excursion through Cairo with the freshness of a May frog. Mr. Vincent, who had submitted to the same ordeal as meekly as myself, rose first, and after finding himself in his clothes again, remarked that he had change, and I had not, and paid for us both. Our dragoman had charge of my habiliments, and the donkey "poker" those of Mr. Vincent; but, like Taffy, Mahmoud was a thief. I did not discover this additional evidence of his weakness until, pulling out to pay for a pair of enamelled leather boots which we had pulled up at a shop to buy, I found the sovereign I had put in my pocket on sallying out from the hotel gone. I immediately went to the door where he was attending to the asses, and charged him with the robbery, which he indignantly denied. I took him by the collar, and he swore by the Prophet; and as I did not know but what he might be cursing as well as swearing, I thought it better not to kick against the pricks, and my foot remained unwounded, but not my feelings, as I had good reasons for suspecting his complicity with the Cheops episode.

As time presses, I must run over the city quickly. After breakfast, and saddling our asses, on which we scampered and cantered through crowded thoroughfares and busy bazaars, shouting "Raglak" (*take care*) like Turks, I felt a little squeamish when I saw the style in which these Jews, Turks, and Egyptian Arabs prepare portable and exportable material for food. It is good for us that we are ignorant of the manner in which some favourite items of it are got up by these greasy-

skinned, turbaned manufacturers. Without failing to pay our inquisitive respects to some of the most celebrated city lions, we made our clattering, uncivil way, to the painful surprise of some loungers, to the citadel, which, like Edinburgh Castle, stands upon a rock, which cannot be moved by wind or weather, and which, not excepting Cheops, commands one of the finest views in Lower Egypt. Nearly at the top of the broad circuitous ascent, cut out of the side of the rock, and deep down into its foundations, and from which we had a draught of pure water, is the favourite draw-well of Joseph, son of Jacob and Rachel, the faithful servant, the shrewd, inspired interpreter, the filial son, the fraternizing, maltreated brother, the sagacious politician and able administrator, whose provident foresight anticipated famine and saved Egypt and the adjacent countries from its ravages, and replenished the coffers of the king, by whom he was exalted to the first place as ruler, and whose name and virtues will be perpetuated through all generations.

Our first motion after reaching the top was to stand on the steps on which Marshal Kleber, the generalissimo of Napoleon's military expedition to Egypt, was standing when he fell from the mortal stab inflicted by Bonaparte's petted Mameluke in revenge for some fancied slight, who immediately after the assassination of the brave unguarded soldier, like Quintus Curtius into the yawning crater, leaped with his charger over the battlements; repeating the feat of the only Mameluke Bey, out of 420, who escaped from the most disgraceful assassination, with the exception of that of the Duc D'Enghien by Bonaparte, which figures in the bloodiest pictures in the book of time—the work of the scoundrel Mehemet Ali in 1811, who, under the guise of friend-

ship and hospitality, seated on a carpet, smoking his chabouk, ordered the fall of the portcullis which hemmed them in, and with a wave of his hand signalled to the musketeers on the heights above to pour down on the caged and defenceless warriors the bullets with which their murderous engines were charged; under which they were massacred to one man, only one, who alone galloped the gauntlet of the deadly fire, and over the lofty ramparts into the abyss, by which the horse was killed, while his rider was saved and escaped into a mosque, and from this sanctuary into the desert. From this historical spot we turned to the grand mosque, on entering the outpost to which we had to pay tribute, and submit to the silly farce of having a pair of ill-fashioned canvas slippers tied on to our feet to save the sacred precincts from Christian defilement. Barring this humiliating observance, the sight within was worth the money. All, all, everything but the furniture and the stained-glass windows, and brass and bronze fittings, from the outer court to the inner divan, is marble. Here Mahmoud, our dragoman, was permitted to do his daily sacrifice along with his fellow worshippers; and if mute genuflexions constitute homage, they do it with a devotion worthy of a nobler and more sanctifying shrine. It is a magnificent structure, and strikes the beholder with a certain feeling of admiration and awe, not unmixed with a twinge of regret that such a costly erection should be consecrated to the ignoble purpose of perpetuating one of the most astonishing delusions that ever was offered to the eye of credulity to believe in, or the prostitution of body, soul, and spirit to sacrifice to. After looking through the filigree bronzed grating into the tomb of Ali, and a visit to the divan, in the legisla-

tive apartment in which the pasha advises with his chief counsellors, we went over the outer court, from whose convenient parapet wall there is offered one of the finest landscape and historical prospects in the world. In one direction there is a vast, rather undulating, level plain, bounded by the mountains of Arabia and Lybia, whose monotony is chiefly relieved by the deceitful mirage, the stone-dead pyramids, the green fringes of the silvery Nile in its tortuous, solitary course through the golden sands of the apparently boundless desert, and by the scattered vegetation which is nourished alone by its exhalations and fructifying deposits. In another, are the remains of Thebes and the sites of Karnak* (in the

** In the city of the Pharaohs of old, in the capital of Egypt, standing on its proudest pinnacle, with my feet on the marble pavement of its grandest outer court, and surveying from its breast-high battlements the wonderful panorama which, from the city at my feet to the horizon all round, embraced—my breast became the tenement of emotions which can but seldom in a life-time be excited. The grandeur of the city itself, and the historical reminiscences which all within the range of vision and beyond it were so much calculated to recall, produced a vividness in the imagination and fancy, which made the transition easy to the grand “Temple of Karnak,” reverently to witness Belzoni’s profound pious emotion when he first beheld its sublime, awe-inspiring, and astounding proportions.*

“I had seen the Temple of Tentyra; but here I was lost in a mass of colossal objects, every one of which was more than sufficient of itself alone to attract my whole attention. How can I describe my sensations at that moment! I seemed alone in the midst of all that is most sacred in the world; a something proclaimed to the distant passenger that ‘HERE IS THE SEAT OF HOLINESS.’ I was lost in contemplation of so many objects, and being alone in such a place my mind was impressed with ideas of such solemnity, that for some time I was unconscious whether I was on terrestrial ground or some other planet. The high portals seen at a distance from the openings to this vast labyrinth of edifices, with the various groups of ruins of the other temples within sight—these altogether had such an effect upon my soul as to separate me from the rest of mortals, exalt me on high over all, and cause me to forget the trifles and follies of life.”

midst of which the gigantic form of the powerful and amiable athlete Belzoni started up and stood before the mental vision, arrayed with the sculptor trophies of his physically herculean and mechanical might), and other famous cities in the land of Goshen ; and looking down there is spread out the enchanting panorama of Cairo, the capital, whose unclouded atmosphere, unpolluted with smoke or other visible noxious vapours, permits

Giovanni Belzoni, although a native of Padua, loved and attached himself to England by marrying one of its daughters. A man of extraordinary size and symmetry, and of corresponding muscular power, he for some time travelled the country as an athlète, and performed surprising feats of strength and agility. Having, however, a finely constituted and pious mind, he was much admired and respected ; his enterprising disposition and mechanical genius, united with his physical energy, brought him under the notice of Mr. Salt, the generous and public-spirited British consul at Cairo, who patronized and sustained Belzoni with his countenance and protection during his labours in Lower Egypt. In addition to his discoveries in Thebes, Luxor, and Karnak, the trophies of his indomitable prowess from other historically sacred grounds, with which he has enriched the British Museum, and which baffled the skill and rendered vain the efforts of Bonaparte's best engineers to remove, won the applause of Europe. He was at the same time of the most simple habits and tastes, his strength and comeliness, like those of the Hebrew children, being sustained by pulse and water. Pulse and Nile water were his daily fare, and his canopy the sky at night, in an open boat on the Nile, while engaged in his most laborious excavations.

After all his labours in Nubia, he returned to England, and then started on a solitary journey to penetrate the continent of Africa, on which he had not long entered when he, the strong, hale, lion-hearted man, was prostrated with "the pestilence which walketh in darkness and which wasteth at noon-day." He was brought down to the coast, and died from the disease and want of proper medical attendance.

May this humble tear dropped over the forlorn grave of the intrepid wanderer, at a time when the rich fruits of their protracted and self-denying pilgrimages are rendering illustrious names which will never die, serve in some measure to perpetuate the recollection of the heroic achievements of Belzoni, and the memory of his goodness, loyalty, and love.

J. R.

the unobstructed vision to embrace the most notable features of the famous city, with the upreared domes of the prevailing mosques, and its countless minarets, which, unlike the minsters, cathedrals, towers, and steeples, viewed from St. Paul's, or the Billingsgate monument, through the deadening drizzle of a London fog, are sparkling with life by the reflected solar beams playing on their coppery canopies with glittering, dancing dazzle. Having done the citadel, the grand and minor mosques and minarets, and other famous attractions, and the inevitable mud-misery and wretchedness of the densely-peopled purlieus of the city, we were refreshed and delighted by a lengthened promenade in the garden of Schoubra, which, like that of Cape Town, is free to all the world, *i.e.*, the decent inhabitants of it—an amenity in which we were, as a matter of course, in both instances included. Having balanced affairs with our interpreter—which I did not do without flatly charging him with stealing the sovereign, and with a guilty knowledge of the assault on the pyramid, both of which he denied with an asseveration which sounded very like an oath—and arranging our business at the hotel, we set off per rail for Alexandria, to which our passes permitted us to travel and board free; which latter we did at a place with such a funny and impracticable name that I neither mind nor could pronounce it if I did. Here we were detained two or three hours by the slow process of crossing the Nile on floating bridges. I had another bath here, but for various reasons would not like to try the experiment again. Got to and found Alexandria all alive with the sons and daughters of commerce from England, and other gay parts of the world, cramming the hotels and strutting the streets

with airs and flares which, if not vulgar, were at least laughable to witness. Calling on Mr. Cooper, an English gentleman from whose brother I had a letter, I was enabled to economize time by the assistance which he gave me on my visits to the most famous places and objects in and around the city, which, considering its world-wide and historical reputation, is not particularly notable in this respect. The capacious harbour, a distant view of Aboukir, with its momentous incident, Cleopatra's Needle, a saunter through the more modern and elegant parts of the city, and a smell of the narrow, confined, and tortuous streets and lanes of the more ancient Alexandria, and a rest at Pompey's Pillar and the catacombs, include all that is worth a passing traveller's while to notice. Pompey's Pillar is a robust monolith (one stone), with a graceful coping and plain entablature. It is said it was never raised by, nor in honour of Pompey, at all. Who says it was? Not certainly any one who has paid it a visit in times of modern date, who know quite well from the superscription on one side of the square of the entablature, that the chaste erection stands there in honour of, and to perpetuate the name of, P. Brennan; the P being the initial sign for pompous or Patrick, it does not matter which. Patrick must have been a navigator, either before the mast, or a rigger, or a caulker; which last is the most likely, as he has caulked his name in living characters on the historical piece. The deed, which will send down the name of Brennan to posterity, unlike those of the pitiful, vain, and contemptible tribe of carvers and scribblers who deface and mar monuments and works of utility and art with their initials and obscure names, was a heroic act. The blazonry with which the marvellous work is

now adorned is ineffaceable, and will, by the conservative nature of the climate, remain for ages as a tribute to the daring temerity of the hero who, on a spot on which no mortal man ever before left a legible record of his existence, tells of Brennan's. It is wonderful; especially when it is believed that the only arms by which he achieved his triumph were a brush and a tar-pot! What line of the Brennans does, or did, Pompous spring from?

The stronger your sticks are, the sooner you will clear your way out of Alexandria. It is a fight. I had two donkeys shot under me, that is, they were pushed from under me. It is the same at the pier. It is the same with the waterman's boats. Nothing but downright fighting, and footing, and handcuffing, and be thankful if you get off without torn clothes. Cleared the shore at last, and got safe aboard the *Andes*, Captain Dobbin, lying about a mile out in the harbour, bound for England, via Malta.

There are two or three observations which, before leaving Egypt, I may be excused for making. It seemed to me that the vast room for improvement in the general condition of the people who occupy these regions, offers fine opportunities for the profitable investment of capital, in either a small or larger way. To those who have not seen it, the degraded and poverty-stricken appearance of the bulk of the population is pitiable. What are called villages—and there is one on a small scale within a mile or so of the great pyramid, which I had an opportunity of looking at very closely—are a collection of hovels. Fancy about a dozen brick kilns of the usual shape, size, and complexion before being burned, of a dark muddy colour; built with sun-dried bricks, which of course does not give them that brisk

red lively appearance which improves a row of cottages so much, and the straw with which they are mixed serving the same purpose of cohesion which currier's hair does with plaster lime, giving such a rugged appearance to the structures that makes miserable-looking abodes; and narrow lanes, no wider than those which separate kilns, running into the interior of this mockery of a village—and you have a tolerable idea of the social state of a people, who, at least as far as the fertile valley of the Nile is concerned, might by proper arrangements and ordinary application be elevated far higher in the scale of being than they are likely to raise themselves. In Cairo, the oxen which work the whim or gin by which the water is lifted from their deep draw wells over a revolving shaft, similar to a river-deepening dredge, do so with their eyes padded to shield them from the sun instead of working under cover, which a trifle would be sufficient to erect; and the women wash their clothes under the same exposed condition at the wells. It is the same with treading out the corn. The same inevitable primitive gin with an ox at each end of the rude shaft, furnished with posterior bags to receive the droppings, which drop as often past as into them, and tossing about and munching the sheaves which their feet tread and mangle, and without a shade to shade them from the fierce sun, and the thirsty soil cracking on the very borders of the Nile, which might be made at all times tributary by simple mechanical arrangements, the means of maintaining the motive power of which might be easily acquired. The heaps and mounds of grain to be seen in the market-places of Alexandria, would make people wonder whether the bread they were eating was made with

corn from Egypt. The process of cleaning the wheat, as it was done on board the *Andes*, might be far more profitably done on the plains of the valleys than in the steamy hold of a ship. It is the same with cotton. Any person of ordinary age and constitution may stand the climate and all its tear and wear for a period of seven years, during which, with reasonable application, he would make himself a man of means for life. Formerly, everything that was raised, every crop which was gathered, was, or might be, claimed by the vice-regal ruler of the land; now the fellahs—farmers—may be freeholders, secured by titles and deeds as safe as any in Great Britain; and fortunes may be made more speedily with a little capital by investing in the soil. The vicinity of these accessible regions to the vast consuming populations of Great Britain and France, and the frequent, nay incessant, intercourse between their ports and those of the Mediterranean, afford facilities for commanding markets of which few other agricultural regions can so conveniently avail themselves. The French as a people—a nation—will not, they cannot do it; their improvident natures will not admit of it. They have ruined, at any rate they have not improved, Algeria. It is only a military occupation, a condition which is quite incompatible with successful colonization. How is it possible that the conscriptive liability to which the pith and youth of the male population are exposed, and the irregular military service to which they are fitfully and arbitrarily called, can prepare them for agricultural or even commercial enterprize. Algiers will remain an unprofitable investment for France, until industry and frugality engage in its industrial emancipation from African inertia and French

impracticability. Military conquest followed by military occupation would ruin the fairest and most fertile regions in the world, as it has done in Ireland, Algeria, and every other province where the dominion of the sword has been established and perpetuated.

We were four days on the passage from Alexandria to Malta, during the most of which time I was confined by a swelling of the glands in my throat, brought on by the incautious use of copious draughts of iced lemonade, which contracted the muscles which had been so long inordinately relaxed—a hint to others in similar circumstances which is worth noting. I was, however, under the efficient attentions of Captain Dobbin and his steward, sufficiently recovered to enable me to make the best use of the four days in Malta which our vagrant lives required in that famous fortress. An incident occurred here, which, from its interesting nature and the gratification with which it has been accompanied, I can never forget, at least as long as I retain my note-book, in which is inscribed in caps,

VISIT TO MALTA AND THE SEVENTY-FIRST HIGHLANDERS.

Although it would be easy to do so, I have no intention of detaining the reader with notes relating to the more prominent features of this impregnable naval station. These are sufficiently well known to most readers already. Who does not know that it was for generations the rendezvous of crusading Christendom—the stronghold of the church militant, composed of a cross between warrior and priest—priest predominating—who, growing voluptuous, waxed fat, kicked, and relapsed into viciousness.

“Come, all ye valiant knights of Malta :
How bright your glittering armour shines !”

The knights of St. John and the free and accepted masons of that patron immediately come to the front of memory when visiting the magnificent church of that name, gorgeous with marble, paint, pictures, and other pious embellishments. What a pity that some "city set upon a hill site" was not found for such a grand architectural structure, with its noble vaulted nave and sublime proportions, rather than the obscure pavement on the cross street, Strada St. Lucia, on which its main portal stands. There is no lack of churches in the city Valetta, nor of graven images, which confront you at every corner exalted in niches, like Peeping Tom of Coventry, and sometimes abased too, as I saw one which the storm had blown down into the gutter.

Taking a solitary stroll on the ramparts, I observed a young soldier on sentry duty, whose brass badge bore 71. Knowing that this was what was called the Glasgow Regiment, I inquired if there were many of them in the island. He said there were, and camped at the Floriana, to which I made my way at once, with the purpose of informing any of them who wished to avail themselves of the offer, that as I was on my way to Scotland I would willingly be the bearer of any letter or verbal intelligence which they might desire to send to their friends. Immediately after passing the guard I was gratified on finding that among the first men I saw was Sergeant M'Donald, whose beat as a recruiting officer between the Cross and Candleriggs Street, Glasgow, made it a matter of convenience for him to supply himself with what articles of stationery he required, at my counter. This was a welcome and gratifying meeting. He, with the survivors of the regiment, had but recently returned from the Crimean war, which just

previous to this had collapsed. On mentioning the object of my visit, he entered on the subject *con amore*. He conducted me to a weather-board canvas-covered tent, and caused a bugle to be sounded, whose muster notes soon surrounded us with a lot of gallant and lively fellows, who, on learning my wish, gladly agreed to make me the bearer of letters, messages, trinkets, relics, and money to their friends, as their consciences told them, when I questioned them on the subject of their correspondence, that they had been defaulters in this respect. So I put them through their facings in a style of drill which was quite new to them. Getting into the centre of the circle, I began in authoritative tones to make them give an account of themselves. Thus, to a tall young man—

“What is your name?”
“My name? My name’s Leckie.”
“Where do you come from?”
“Come frae? I cam frae the Vale o’ Leven.”
“What place there?”
“What place there? Alexandria.”
“What trade did you follow?”
“Trade? It was nae trade at a’.”
“What were you then?”
“A calico printer.”
“And is that not a trade?”
“No; the wark’s nearly a’ dune by women and machinery, and I ca’ that nae trade at a’.”
“And was that the reason why you enlisted?”
“Partly; no a’ thegither.”
“What work were you employed at?”
“Ferryfield.”
“Are your parents alive?”
“No; my faither’s deed”—“and his mither’s awa’ a

sodger," shouted out as touzy a looking scarlet-headed tyke as ever took the shilling, named Jabus. If they had nicknamed him Jawbox, they might have done so neatly by taking the dimensions of his mouth and his propensity to chaff as their cue.

"Is your mother living?"

"Yes."

Where?

"In Alexandria."

"Now, Leckie, I will put a question to you, which I hope you will answer candidly, and I will put it to all your comrades."

"Very well," said Leckie.

"When did you write to your mother?" Now, I believe that there was not one among these young men who would have refused to face any mortal foe, like those who had been in the "thin red line," in which were there "nane but Hielan' bonnets." But Leckie could not look *me* in the face; he held down his head, and muttered something about them seeing the newspapers. As I was pretty well posted up on the profession which Leckie disdained to call a trade, and his answers being ready and candid, he was allowed to pass. Who's next?

"Well, soldier, what's your name?"

"M'Kirdy, sir."

"Where do you come from?"

"Haugh-head, sir."

"What Haugh-head?"

"Campsie, sir."

"What were you?"

"A bleacher, sir." If I had not known otherwise, I would have thought the schoolmaster was better known

in Campsie than in the Vale of Leven. But it was to another cause that M'Kirdy was indebted for his polish.

"Are your parents alive?"

"Yes, sir." And so on with all the rest of them. I was interrupted here by a person outside calling out my name: Oh, here's so and so frae the Trongate. He was called in and examined, and although I must say I felt gratified to hear my name mentioned in the familiar manner it was, under the circumstances, I questioned him sharply—

"Was it you who called out my name?"

"Yes."

"Where did you know me?"

"Dae ye no ken me?"

"Not exactly at present," I replied.

"I used to buy paper from you."

"Who for?"

"Ross, the blacking maker."

That was enough. After stipulating that I would meet them next day at eleven o'clock, to get all the letters and money they could spare to their relations, I left them, not unaffected by the warmth of their thanks and the *cheerful* manner in which they saluted me on leaving the camp.

The hotel my friends and self were living at was a very large one in Strada Real, and filled at the time with passengers and tourists from and bound for various countries. Among the number were two military officers from Jersey, who had been in the habit of lounging in the gun-shop of my friend of the Cheops and Turkish bath episodes, M. Vincent, and who gaily greeted him on his safe return from Australia, whither he had gone on a tour of inspection in the way of extending his

business in that direction. Here was the late Sir Robert Stephenson on a professional mission to Egypt. Here was the late Mr. Hugh Tennent, of Wellpark, Glasgow, on a yachting tour, conveying his party to Alexandria on their way to Palestine, present among whom were the late Nathaniel Stevenson, whose brother Hugh had been a fellow-passenger and sufferer with me in the *Adelaide*; the Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Buchanan, and young son, &c. The rev. doctor regretted he could not accompany me to speak to the soldiers in the camp, as all his engagements had been previously arranged for. I only told him after breakfast, and within a couple of hours of the appointed time of meeting. If I could have seen him the evening previous I would have informed him, as it would have afforded the brave fellows the highest gratification to have been exhorted by one so able and worthy to address them; and as the Indian mutiny had broken out, although it was not publicly known at Malta at the time, they were soon after summoned to the theatre of war, and were among the highest of the highly-extolled tartans, to whose bravery and discipline Sir Colin Campbell and the British empire are so much indebted for the complete suppression of the formidable rebellion. The 71st suffered severely during the taking of Lucknow, at which they were at the front. Addressing these men under the circumstances, fresh from the sanguinary fields and trenches of the Crimea, and with the shadow of the deadly conflicts of India looming over them, would have added a remembrance as grateful to his feelings as any of the many gratifying ones with which his interesting tour is associated. The meeting at the camp which ensued afforded me great satisfaction; and the

short address I made was listened to by the gallant men with feelings which told how tenderly one is regarded, who is to be the bearer of tidings in person to friends and relatives, many of whom were likely mourning for them as dead.

My appearance next day at the camp was the signal for the beating of a retreat, which the young scamperers would not have made before a formidable battled battalion. But I was a foe of a very different stamp; I was a friend with whom they had broken faith; not a letter had been written and they were scared as if they had seen a wolf. But I soon found my friend the sergeant and the bugle sounded—and the squadron immediately put in an appearance, and with drooping heads, fallen crests, and mumbling manner, made all sorts of shame-faced excuses for what the sergeant called downright negligence, informing them at the same time that he knew me, and would be responsible for the delivery of any thing I might take charge of; and as he heard them promise, and as I had come to the camp for the purpose, he would, at the peril of a certain style of discipline, which they appeared to understand, make them keep their word: on hearing which they surrendered unconditionally, and “Tam, whar is my ink?” “Jock, bring back my pen;” “Bauldy, pay me back my sheet o’ paper and the envelopes,” and a regular platoon of resetting accusations ensued, in the deafening ring of which two of them made a characteristic attempt to escape; the ruse consisting in young Jock Jabus taking off the only brace by which his pants were suspended from his shoulder to lay it on that of supple Tam Shanter, who leaped over the table, and was making for the capacious entrance to the tent,

near to which I was standing at the time, and interposing my person between it and their further progress stopped it, not by informing them that they must cross my dead body, or any such mortal alternative as that, but simply that it was of no use—an opinion in which they good-naturedly coincided; and by all sitting down together, the sergeant and myself included, managed a goodly number of letters in less than an hour; and as the ice was fairly broken, I had less difficulty with their hearts, which opened with their pockets, which, to their honour be it spoken, did not require many words to render effectual. In addition to the letters and money, I was the bearer of relics and small images, in brass and bronze, of saints, apostles, and prophets, found in the war-roasted streets and pillaged precincts of the Greek ritualisticism of Sebastopol, over which, as well as all Russian Christendom, the temporal and spiritual dominion of one mortal man extends. On leaving the camp I was treated to

A SALLY OF SCOTCH WUT,

the recollection of which is always accompanied by a hearty laugh. At the top landing of the flag pavement ascent to the Floriana camp, there were airing themselves in the fine weather, and their shirt sleeves, a group from the Gallow-Tron- and other gates of Glasgow, reading—every one with a volume. There was some small talk in the way of banter about life in the trenches of the Crimea, and the pastime of “potting,” which is the name given to the cowardly practice of shooting down the enemy, not in fair fight, wherever he may present his head or body—whether on errands of convenience or duty—a practice which the young men condemned and repudiated. Affecting not to ab-

solve them altogether, looking at one whose style afforded some slight grounds for the suspicion that, like Harry Wynd, the Perth glover, he would not be averse to do a stroke for his ain hand, inquired, in the accusative case, how many he had killed, to which he smartly, but rather profanely replied, "Oh, I declare to —, no yin;" on which a comrade remarked, "Oh, what a lie! I've seen ye kill thoosands." "Ay," replied the indignant repudiator of the "potting" charge; "better dae that than let them crawl aboot me as you did;" which so completely turned the tables on the passive sufferer of the swarming invaders of his nocturnal quiescence, as to make him comply with the unanimous request of his fellows, which was "to shut up!"

Sauntering through one of the markets on the evening of the same day, I encountered some veterans of one of the other Highland regiments camped on the island, whose war-worn appearance and martial tread invested them with additional interest. They were accompanied by their wives, who, no doubt, with their husbands were doing their best to make ends meet by purchasing in the cheapest market, which was much crowded; and seeing the husbands had some difficulty in effecting a passage for their wives through the pressing throng, I could not resist the inclination of assisting to make way for the brave and brawny sansculottes. The sudden collapse of the war was a most galling circumstance to these men, who, after enduring so much, were in prime condition to continue the conflict and go in for victory, and for the effectual attainment of the object for which they had fought; and were chagrined when the fangs of the British lion were on the throat of the Russian bear, to be choked off for the sake of allowing Russia to fall

softly, and of the dynastic and military prestige of France; and jostled from the Malakoff to the Redan, where, notwithstanding prodigies of valour and the self-immolation of many a curled darling, the interests of England, if not its honour, were, as at Kars, sacrificed to the sinister designs of a nation whose chief, under the crusading guise of liberty, has, with the aid of betrayed allies and his own mercenary troops, so often intercepted the onward march to its attainments:—

“Trust not for freedom to the Franks,
They have a king who buys and sells ;
In Britain’s swords and Britain’s ranks
The only hope of courage dwells.”

On leaving Malta and getting aboard the steamer for

MARSEILLES,

we soon settled down to the enjoyment of one of the most interesting trips I ever made. Coasting, and indeed skirting, the shores of Sicily and Sardinia, with their stirring reminiscences and grave associations, we were not much below. Here, on one side, was Etna in silent repose; and on the Sardinian shore, and dipping into the sea, by which it is all but completely surrounded, are the deep, damp dungeons, quite close to which we sailed past, where Poerio the patriot, and other unfortunate fellow-victims of the Garibaldi-dethroned Bourbon’s depraved nature, were at the time fettered, in a silence whose gloom was more depressingly portentous from the fact that it was determined that their dark prison was to be their tomb, and from which they were only delivered by the ear-piercing voice of Mr. Gladstone! Passing Caprera, then unknown to fame, and through the Straits of Bonifacio, we emerged

into the open water full in front of Corsica, affording a good view of Ajaccio, the birthplace of the scourge of Europe. Sweeping past Toulon and Tolouse we entered the harbour and got berthed in the docks of Marseilles, which is built on the shore and quite exposed to the sea, and partly on the sides of the hills facing it, and would be a good mark for any floating battery of pounders. The circumstances of the people seem to be in the main easy. The nocturnal orgies of the fast and loose frequenters of the public gardens, and their gaudy gaiety, suppose well-lined pockets; and the dissipation of time in the billiard, dice, and domino saloons seems to argue the absence of profitable recreations and enlightening pursuits. Leaving Marseilles for Dieppe, from the south to the north of France 800 miles, we had an opportunity of traversing some of its finest departments. Skirting the Garonne, whose course through its long-sweeping valleys and vine and olive clad hills, which to their very tops are in a condition of fruit-bearing, we had evidence of the crowded and jostling condition in which the appropriation of the soil by a hand-to-mouth peasantry tortures it. Reaching Paris on the 18th of June, we had an opportunity of listening to the martial strains in a small way by the veterans of Waterloo, who of course claim the victory which sent the victor to the galling chains of St. Helena! Remaining a night in Dieppe, and taking a small steamer for Newhaven, we were chopped in the channel in a Bay of Biscay style, which brought up reminiscences of the commencement of my lengthened journey which, as I have no wish to revive, I will let sleeping dogs lie; especially as I have to throw myself on the mercy of the waves, while passing on

to more distant and solitary regions in Australia than I have yet surveyed.

The pleasure I derived in delivering the soldiers' letters and messages was greater than I will attempt to describe. The case of the aged, solitary, widow Leckie at Alexandria, Vale of Leven, may be taken as an instance. Having found her in the humble apartment of which her daughter and herself were the only occupants, I said,

“ Well, Mrs. Leckie, have you a son a soldier ? ”

Alarmed, confused, her attenuated frame shook, her blood-forsaken face assumed a changed hue, and she sat down on a chair resignedly as if to hear the woful tidings of which her worst fears suggested me to be the bearer. She could not easily speak, but she did not need. Perceiving the cause of her profound emotion, I relieved her anxiety by saying that I knew she had and that I had seen him three weeks ago; on which she rose, and taking hold of my arms and looking me full in the face with a piercing inquisitive stare, inquired if I had seen her son? “ Yes, I have seen him, and here is a letter, and something more; ” and then in a half imperious tone she inquiringly said, “ And my son’s no killed? ” I assured her he was alive and well, and seeing she was not in a condition to read the letter I read it for her, and proud of the filial sentiments it contained, her pent bosom gave way; and relieved and softened by her falling tears, she leaned her septagenarian hand on my shoulder, and invoked a blessing, the terms of which, on my leaving with a promise to return, were repeated in a gush of gratitude, which would have required a harder heart than mine to be unaffected by, and made me feel how easy it is to be a widow’s friend. The

scattered localities to which the letters were addressed took some time and travelling, which included some of the soldiers' relatives to whom having only verbal messages I was a living epistle, and the only feeling which mars the gratification I felt, and feel, is one of regret that a message which I had from Sergeant M'Donald to his wife, in Glasgow, remained undelivered, as she had removed to another locality from the address given; and if he is still alive, I hope he will receive this statement with the feeling with which it is made. Although I have never seen this intelligent soldier since, it was with no common interest I read his letters from the seat of war in India, which, with their stirring descriptions, appeared in the local newspapers, Glasgow.

VOYAGE OUT BY THE "GREAT BRITAIN."

About noon on the 26th May, 1864, a lusty chorus from the rusty throats of the hardy mariners, followed by a cheer, told that the anchor was weighed and being brought home. Two parting cheers, whose echoes reverberated along the Liverpool and Birkenhead shores, and the genuflectional salutations of the stalwart captain and others to their friends, who had congregated on the pier-heads and the landing-stages, gave us the welcome assurance that the noble *Britain* had commenced her arduous and solitary course. The weather continued fine and favourable, which enabled us to give a good look into the luxuriant island of Madeira. We passed the equator on the 28th June. While standing out from St. Helena, about 500 miles between it and the coast of Africa, a gale came up one morning, which increased as the day advanced, and the hitherto well-behaved ship commenced a series of those acrobatic

performances which, when provoked too much, she is said to excel in. The nights being dark and wet, I whiled them away in the company of a family who had acquired a roomy cabin for themselves. The experience of the matron having been confined to the duties of her now forsaken fireside, no wonder than home-sickness and the more frequent than welcome cantrips of the ship made her sometimes wish that she was back again; and when the lantern suspended from the ceiling, girded with guy strings as it was, would persist in the perverse inclination of visiting everyone's face in provoking succession, the occasion would have passed unimproved had she not expressed her regret, accompanied with glances towards her good-natured husband, that they had left their comfortable home and *bien condition* for "your grand land o' promise." This pleasant banter was enlivened one night by the recital, on his part, of a sore night's trials. But it was a night! there was a battle among the delf, crystal, and cutlery of the steward's pantries: table-turning was exhibited to perfection, without any visible hand touching them; performing chairs doing dangerous revolutions without regard to the safety of their own or other limbs; trunks snapping their lashings, and dashing with furious ettle at opposing boxes, without thought or consideration as to consequences, created consternation. Our lady could stand it no longer; so up she rose from her uneasy couch, and seizing hold of a friendly trunk, which was trying hard to run away, she got herself seated on the only portion of it which had not escaped under an opposite bunk; and with sickly air, dishevelled hair, and awry mutch, addressed herself to her lord—

"Rise, will ye?"

“What will I rise for?” was the reluctant response.

“Will ye lie there sleepin’ and see the weans drooned
aflore your een, and the boat gaun to bits?”

“Come awa to your bed, woman. If we are to be
drooned, is’t no as weel to be drooned in oor bed as
sittin’ on a kist?”

A MAN OVERBOARD.

Fine and fair weather succeeded until we passed the Cape of Good Hope, when an accident occurred which caused an exciting and painful scene. The alarming cry sounded through the ship that a man was overboard. It was Joe Mellet, an able seaman. He fell from what are called the preventive forestays, which being well forward, enabled the captain, who was at his post on the quarter-deck, to hail the struggling sailor:—“Hold well up, my brave man, and I will send you a boat;” and in a very short time a boat was lowered from the davits and manned by a crew of eager volunteers under the charge of mates Hunter and Angus. The course of the boat was directed by the ship’s track and the sea-fowl, albatross and Cape pigeon. The ship was put about to come near the boat, which was now about a mile away; and the eager countenances of all on board showed how intense the interest had become. “Do you see him yet?” “No.” “Yes.” “He’s down.” “I see him; don’t you see him on the top of that wave?” “Do you any of you see him?” was demanded by the captain. “Yes.” “No.” “Oh! the boat’s swamped, sir;” and so it apparently was; for in spite of the straining of every muscle by the courageous fellows at the oars, the boat was surged to the lee of the now sinking man, who, being an expert swimmer, had hitherto kept him-

self well up; and at this critical juncture one of the most daring and gallant acts was done which can well be imagined. When the boat was striving hard to reach the spot, and when within ten or twelve yards of it, Mr. Angus the mate, at the bow, bounded into the troubled sea, and caught the sailor by the hair of the head under the water. When the boat came alongside, we saw the body laid in the bottom of the boat motionless. "Thank God, he's saved," said some rejoicingly; but this hilarious manifestation was checked by the assurance that he was dead. A rope was looped round his body, and he was drawn up by the tackle and laid upon the deck, and then taken down below; when, by the skill and attentions of Dr. Alexander, of the *Great Britain*, Joe was doing duty aloft in the course of a week or ten days. The saloon passengers made a handsome contribution for the purpose of presenting Mr. Angus with a telescope for his gallantry. He is a native of Shetland, a fine swanky fellow, a fine scholar, and well versed in the sciences essential to his promotion in the profession which he has chosen. After a good steady run we arrived in Melbourne in sixty-two days from Liverpool.*

After a month in Melbourne I made for the up-country, and was astonished to find that, notwithstanding the high price of labour and the contingencies of bush and farm fires, the country all round about the various gold-fields had assumed a rich, cultivated, and home-like aspect; although so much cannot be said for the populous districts of Smythsdale and Scarsdale, in consequence of

* The above are extracts from portions of a letter which I sent from Melbourne to a friend in Glasgow, and which appeared in the Glasgow papers at the time, and are quoted here for the sake of continuity.

the nature of the soil. The aggressive enterprize of the people will soon overtake the rich loam of the pitfield plains in the direction of the coast, towards which the gold gutters and quartz reefs are trending. Excepting the proverbially prolific quarters of Belasine and Barabool, by which the fine healthy town of Geelong, with its reassuming life and colonial importance, is flanked, the auriferous and agricultural region about Ballarat, including Bularook, Rockwood, Smeaton, Creswick, Ascot, Glendaruel, Tourella, Clunes, Carisbrook, Talbot, Maryborough, teems with the evidences of industrial and commercial life, whose invading steps are pressing back pastoral possessors into regions of abounding solitudes, which offer more extensive ranges for the increase of flocks than the appropriated lands lying about the centres of population; and the consequence is that these centres, originating first in the grouping of gold-diggers attracted by their auriferous deposits, have grown into marts of great commercial speculative, and in some measure, of manufacturing importance. Ballarat, Beechworth, Sandhurst, and Castlemaine, connected with the metropolis by well-conducted railways, are populous and flourishing centres; the collectors and distributors of wealth, ministering to the wants and comforts of the several populations by which they are surrounded, and giving importance and stability to the political, civil, religious, educational, and benevolent institutions with which the capital and the provinces are so surprisingly well provided. After about a year's residence in Ballarat, my business led me to

SOUTH AUSTRALIA,

of which the city of Adelaide is the capital; to which,

although I might have proceeded overland, I preferred the route, via Melbourne, by rail (100 miles), and round the coast by steamer, 300 miles or so. But for the intense heat, Adelaide is about the neatest and most desirable city to reside in which, to be a commercial emporium, can be found. Its manifold public institutions offer advantages for improvement and recreation which must tell on the constitution of society, in the elevated tone and social well-being of the people. Its whole aspect is beautiful: situated on the ample dimensions of a slightly elevated table-land giving a sufficient fall for drainage, and invested, as it almost always is, with flowers and foliage, make it delightful. The governor's (Sir James Ferguson) residence, in the city though hardly of it, with its sweet vicinities, is a fine mansion. The public gardens, partaking of the zoological and botanical, are frequented by the orderly and well-attired population, attracted by the zoological novelties, floral parterres, and the sparkling beauty which the jetting and cascading fountains offer. The Literary Institution, situated between the gates of the gardens and those to the residence of the governor, is on the finest model of contemplative convenience, intellectual recreation, and mechanical utility. The Club, established for the convenience and temporary residence, during session, of members of both Houses of Parliament, situated opposite to, and overlooking from the front the palatial residence of the governor, is also a fine cool-looking erection; whose internal arrangements I had several opportunities of admiring. The House of Parliament—not so fine compared with others—is built on the brow of the rise from which the main thoroughfares of the city branch off, in both of which

by the privilege of entrée obtained, I listened to debates which, although highly creditable to the intellectual and other attainments of the speakers, might have been without losing much of their effect, conducted with less *animus*; especially in one case in the Upper House, where a gentleman who had that very day taken his place for the first time as a member of the government in the capacity of chief commissioner of Works, was taunted with not having a policy. He has proved himself to be an acquisition to any government. He originally hailed from Cumberland—a journeyman carpenter—and by dint of intelligent industry has acquired a social and political status which is creditable to himself and honourable to the city whose public hall he had the main hand in erecting.

THE ADELAIDE CITY HALL

is a magnificent structure, whose architectural and ornate style and proportions impart a grandeur to the city which, with its other attractions, make it an emblem of the fair and fertile colony of which it is the capital. But for what reason the leaders of the Colonization Society, who were its founders, should have fixed on such an inland site it is difficult to understand. Eight miles removed from its port (by which it is now connected with a railway, but which could not be contemplated as possible then), and from the cooling and moderating temperature of the coast, when a site nearer the gulf could have been as easily obtained, can only be accounted for by the presence of some overshadowing influence, which may be better imagined than described. Sir Charles Grant (afterwards Lord Glenelg), Mr. Labouchere (late Lord Taunton), Sir Raikes Currie,

Mr. Charles Hindley, Mr. Gouger, and others, constituting the Board of Directors, and whose names are perpetuated in the nomenclature of the leading streets of the city, were gentlemen whose judgments were not generally questioned; but the result of their choice will be that Port Adelaide will increase in the ratio of trade and population faster than the city; which, for various reasons, is a pity.

The three staples from which the great wealth of the colony is derived, are wool, wheat, and copper. The widely-distant localities of their sources will distribute the population throughout the wide regions of South Australia, and give abundant scope for its enterprize. The copper on the coast and hilly ranges around Adelaide, the cereal crops on the rich lava soils of Mount Gambier and its genial fertile neighbourhood, and the pastoral and agricultural capabilities of Penola and its far-reaching plains, with their recently-formed roads from the coast at M'Donnel Bay into the interior, offer advantages for the settlement of a population who by ordinary industry may be comfortably circumstanced, and the result of whose efforts in this direction will be a degree of competency which may be striven for in vain in the keenly-competited and over-peopled seats of commerce in Europe.

Residing at Mount Gambier for the period of twelve months, the nature of my business, which was chiefly among the farmers and squatters, afforded fine opportunities of becoming acquainted with the peculiarities of bush life. Horseback, in the absence of other modes of conveyance, is the chief recourse for a traveller. The clear, unclouded nature of the atmosphere, and the unmetalled tracks and grassy plains over which he has

to ride, are favourable for getting over a great stretch of country in a day without much fatigue. One hundred miles, without distressing man or beast, is not an unusual thing; while forty or fifty in this country is counted not a bad day's work, and without the fear of

GETTING BUSHED,

which has happened to myself several times, on one of which things looked rather serious, which, with the feeling it produced, I will endeavour as intelligently as I can to describe. I started from the neighbourhood of Mount Gambier on a journey, which, from the number of far-apart stations I intended to overtake, would require about a week, but which, from various unforeseen causes, occupied nine days. Arriving at Penola on Saturday, I arrived at Mr. John Riddoch's home station, which is in the neighbourhood, where under the kind attentions of his mother I remained until Monday morning, and proceeded to his own residence, Yallum Park; which lying in the direction of my ultimate destination, Mount Graham, I was enabled to avail myself of the minute instructions which his intimate knowledge of the country enabled him to furnish me with, as well as of the ready hospitality which he so much delights to observe, and of which it has been my privilege, under various circumstances, to be the participator. I had to pick up two or three stations on my way to Mr. Johnston's, of Mount Graham, which I intended to reach in the evening, but from a lengthened detention at Mr. Hall's, I did not get along farther than Mr. William M'Leod's, of Kalanda; and as Mrs. M'Leod told me while I was taking tea that I would have enough to do to find my way in open day, and which

none of themselves would think of attempting after sun-down, I gladly availed myself of the entertainment they offered. Mr. M'Leod in the morning, after breakfast and judiciously attending to my horse, which from a slight accident required extra attention, put me fair on my way, advising me at the same time that my course was a very difficult one to follow ; that there were above two miles on which there was no track whatever, and in the event of losing my way, to keep the sun on my right shoulder and Mount M'Intyre in view, and not to ride too fast, which was the cause very often of people missing the right road, who if more cautious, might reach the end of their journey right enough. Not bad advice certainly, under any circumstances, but particularly pertinent where there was no road track, wheel, or foot mark to steer by. Keeping Mount M'Intyre in view, which in the distance was often intercepted by the growing timber all around, and the sun on my right shoulder, whose relative position as the day advanced I found it more and more difficult to keep with that of my own to them both, as we stood to each other in the morning. If Mount M'Intyre had been less liable to eclipse from the cause just mentioned, I would have preferred, it as a stationary object, as a guide to the sun, whose stability for this purpose really cannot be depended on at all. I had got on pretty well so far, as I knew from different way-marks, sun-dried lakes, slip pannels, and fences, of whose existence about the distances indicated I had been advised particularly, by sighting some herds of horned cattle I had to pass through, and which, from their size, I knew to belong to Leake's Station, and for that reason coveted their heads accordingly, until I came to a burned fence, which

was not on my map at all. The burning of this fence was an unfortunate affair, not for the proprietor, of whose calamity I was not caring a pin nor thinking at all; but of that which I was afraid was going to overtake myself. After riding about for some time in vain, in search of a gate of a peculiar construction through which I was to pass, I succeeded in reaching the top of a rise, from which I got a view of the woody top of Mount M'Intyre, but which appeared to have shifted its relative position far too much, under the circumstances, from the sun, which although it had screwed itself round a bit had surely not gone so far astray as that. But there was evidently a screw loose somewhere; perhaps in the fastenings of my own head! I was astray, but not so far as to prevent me from retracing my steps, which I did, and made a fair start from the burned fence, but not without discharging the sun from my employment as a guide; and concluding that the gate had been burned with the fence, I trotted away without compass or rudder, until I was brought up by impenetrable tea tree reaching up to the horse's ears. We turned back and got on to another rise encumbered with tall fern and low brushwood, but could see nothing like a mount or a range in the whole field of view, which was very contracted, and so I reluctantly concluded that I was bush-wandered.

I had neither food, nor water, nor matches, to put me over the night, and neither halter nor hobbles to keep the horse from straying farther away, even if I had to sleep out and submit to involuntary abstinence; and what better would I be in the morning? If I could not track the forest while the sun was in the ascendant, both horse and man would be less able from the night's

exposure and anxiety to overcome the difficulty. I stood still, and the silence which reigned all round was like that of midnight. I felt eerie and oppressed; the dropping of a branch by its own weight sounded and echoed through the wood as if its parent tree had fallen. The flutter of a voiceless member of the brilliant-plumaged feathered tribe, which in many parts adorn the dark scenery of the abounding bush, intensified the feeling of isolation which had now laid its heavy hand on me. The intermittent rising of the saddle with my own weight upon it, and its sudden fall, caused by the heaving sigh of the horse, expressive of the listless langour with which the heat and the hopelessness of the situation overpowered it, excited my sympathy for the dumb animal, whose thirst nor my own I had no present nor prospective means of allaying. I had slackened the reins; but it showed no disposition to eat the withered, leaf-strewed grass. I dismounted and took off the bridle with the bit attached, to enable it to eat if it could at all; but it evinced no inclination to do so. This was the worst feature in the case. I was afraid he would fail, which, under the conditions, would have been unfortunate; for although I knew I was within the boundaries of a fenced sheep and cattle run, the distance and impracticability of any part of it were so uncertain as to make it almost as bad as if I had been in the midst of boundless bush. I fastened the bridle round the passive horse's neck, and the reins to the denuded branch of a prostrate tree, and wandered away from the spot; but still keeping the poor beast in sight, and placing myself on my hands and knees, with my face as near the conducting medium as I conveniently could, sounded the far-reaching Australian alarm, whose echoes,

reverberating through the woods, came back with such undiminished force, and with such distinct rearticulation, as to raise my feelings with the hope that the sudden jerky termination of the responsive coo-ey—coooo-wee—cooooo-wi, were distinct acknowledgments of the intimations of my forlorn condition, but which was soon controverted by the painful cessation of the reflected intonations which too accurately kept time with my own vociferations, which, although they did not reach human ears, had caused some slight commotion among the generally harmless tenants of the woods and plains. A few sheep, as if started from their innocent occupation of nibbling the grass in the coarse covering of the tall ferns, came leaping past at some distance from where I was standing. This in former times might have afforded reasonable grounds of hope that a shepherd or his dog were at hand: but the solitary brain-softening occupation of the shepherd is in a great measure gone, and replaced by the active and more healthy calling of the boundary rider, whose duties consist in maintaining in safe-keeping condition the post and wire fences which surround the extensive runs which the more wealthy settlers purchase from the crown; and this was the case in the region where I wistfully stood. Leake, Johnston, Riddoch, Clarke, Black, Ellis, and some others, whose flocks and herds amount to such marvellous numbers, have all their domains fenced round in this manner. I had started several herds of kangaroos, which are a timid tribe generally; but a large buck (an old man, as they are called), came bounding forward and confronted me. He sat on his ample haunches erect, and his tawering form stood above five feet, a perfect picture of symmetrical beauty; his pure white breast giving

fine relief to the dark fawny colour of his woolly-fur skin. Such a fellow, when at bay, is a deadly dangerous customer: they take a man in their arms and leap on their tails and hind legs away to some cave or swamp and dispose of him, or with their cloven, steel-hard, and pointed hoofs rip a man or dog at one upper or downward cut. I did not dispute the matter with him, but slunk back to my horse, and leaving him with the reins to himself, travelled on deviously until I saw by the pricking of his ears that he had smelled water, which proved to be the water-hole of a hut, which, when we had made, was occupied by a woman whose husband, in the morning after the accommodation I had received overnight, put me on my way two miles, and I found Mr. Johnston's fine house, family, and generous hospitality a compensation for my troubles, which we very soon forgot, as well as the lessons which they are sent to teach. I had the rare pleasure of being at a

KANGAROO HUNT

some time before this, which I will not take time to describe farther than saying, that the meet was at Yallum Park, whose owner, Mr. Riddoch, M.P., was under vacation of session; and the chamber of his parliamentary duties at Adelaide being about 300 miles from his family and home, his appearance is welcomed by his neighbours in a cheerful manner. Some of the gentry round about, including the stipendiary magistrate, had by appointment met for a regular foxy kind of hunt. I happened to be about at the time, and got a mount on a mare, a vixen named "Black Fan." Fan was a cunning witch. Feeling that I was deter-

mined that she would not be allowed to break my neck, if I knew it, she was as determined that I should not break her heart by being behind at the death; so, instead of carrying us over dismal swamps and dead wood, and following the hounds all round, she cut the corners and crossed the plains in a stealthy, dishonourable style, and was second in at one death, which entitled me to the trophy of the right ear of the kangaroo, which I got.* After a good day's sport, supplemented with the choicest pic-nic provender, the hospitality of Mr. Riddoch, and a refreshing night's sleep in sheets as white as those of Ailie Dinmont, and as caller, I started home to Mount Gambier, and, not long after, on my way to the old country, *via* Melbourne; which, every time I saw it, appeared to be growing in grandeur and importance. The people still continue to maintain the buoyant, healthful style, which it was thought they would lose; but it seems not. The climate is not enervating, though sometimes relaxing; the clear, bounding atmosphere, giving free and fair play to the lungs, and by its rarity absorbing all pestilential vapours from miasmatic lagoons or decomposing animal matter, is favourable to health and longevity. The standard of living, even among the operative and labouring class, is much higher than it is in Europe. The rate of wages, in the ever-offering recourse to the gold districts, will continue to be high; while the rate of all the prime necessaries of life will be falling lower and lower, and the great distance from the residuum of the older states of this hemisphere will maintain the character and respectability of the bulk of the population from social declension: while the condition of political, civil, and personal freedom which

* See Appendix.

they enjoy, afford the best guarantee for their encouragement in industrial efforts. The whole aspect of affairs seems to be promising and inviting to the surplus well-intentioned class of superabundant European states, to share their advantages. If the city of Melbourne may be taken, and it may, as a manifestation of the standard of the taste and social spirit of the people generally, it is high. Its fine and fashionable suburbs; its noble public institutions; its architectural distinction; its ample mathematically-appointed streets, resplendent with the gaiety of amply-furnished shops, and flush and animated with their flowing equestrian and pedestrian passengers, and maintained clean and cool by copious ablutions from the elastic branches of the "yan-yean" hydrants—invest it altogether with an aspect which forcibly recalls Dugald Moore's apostrophe to commerce:—

" See what a change trade's glorious wand can do !
As if by magic make a village spring
To all the glories of a capital !"

Leaving this noble city, and the region of which it is the greatest capital, with regret, I embarked again under the careful and prosperous management of the jubilant commander of the *Great Britain*, Captain Gray. Except one were to attempt to make something out of nothing, or at the best a mountain of a mole's hill, the passage home, with the exception of a stiff breeze now and again, offered no incident worth noting. Standing off the coast of New Zealand, steaming, and with tolerable weather, we soon sighted the island of Antipodes, distant from Melbourne 1400 miles, which enabled some of us to learn, if we did not know it before, that the inhabitants of England do not stand with their feet against those of their friends in Victoria, and that if a

perpendicular tunnel were made from London, with the view of making the most direct route to Melbourne, it would emerge 1400 miles wide of Melbourne, i.e., at the island of Antipod.

The modes adopted for "killing time" were various, and sometimes puerile enough. To those of a more contemplative and imaginative turn of mind, and who did not care much for "gay and festive scenes," the fantastic scenery of cloudland in serene weather towards sunset offered peculiar attractions. "Faces in the fire," evanescent though they be, are often strangely suggestive and interesting; but they afford no comparison to the illusive grandeur of the phenomena of the sky when the majestic sun is "going to bed." Radiating from his own glory, his beams shoot athwart, and up from the horizon, which seemingly quickens its pace to embrace and enshroud him; and long after he has gone to rest, his rays strike behind the quiescent and quaintly-piled cloud tops, peaks, and prominent points of their multiform architecture, with dazzling ruby and gold, painting the palaces of the sky with the most lustrous tints, giving a splendour to "castles in the air" which no human art could rival, and revealing the sails of the innumerable mammoth windmills ranged along the ridges of the atmospheric mountains, in such life-like condition as might have excited the pugnacity of Don Quixote, and provoked him to buckle on his armour to do battle with these unsubstantial *Anaks*. Cloud-built towers, gorgeous palaces, solemn temples, minsters, spires, columns, terraces, stand forth in seeming reality and apparent permanence, and which only vanish when they cease to receive the parting salutations of the retiring orb, when the enchanting panorama is eclipsed

by the gathering gloom of the thickening atmosphere, whose chilling embrace advises loungers that the genial glow of saloon lamps, snug cabins, and early beds, are more conducive to health and comfort than exposure to the night, and social remark, "Early to bed and early to rise, makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise." So runs the proverb: at any rate, early risers at sea are often rewarded by sights which laggards lose. One morning about six o'clock the horizon, right and left, presented a spectacle as grand as may be conceived. The moon, which had "ruled the night" with mildest radiance, as if by mutual concert, was descending into the deep just when the sun, with blood-red and fiery aspect, was emerging from the waters, to ascend his throne to "rule the day." The coincidence was striking and solemn, and the interest of the spectacle was intensified by the presence of an iceberg, about two or four miles off the port bow. It appeared in the form of an immense oblong church, and judging from the distance, might be 500 or 600 yards in length, and about 60 yards in height. Although the sea was comparatively calm, the dashing of the waves against the berg sent the spray high up its unyielding crystal walls; although its bulk was of a pale blue, the play of the sunbeams on its sea-washed side, made it brilliant with the coruscations of every prismatic tint. We could perceive it rolling lazily, and the solitary wanderer seemed distressed by some disturbance in the depths of its foundations, as, while we were looking at it with the telescope it seemed to break in two, as we discovered a chasm, over whose perpendicular sides the water was falling in cascades. It was a grand and beautiful object, and as it receded from our view, a feeling of melan-

choly sympathy was produced by the feeling, that the solid body of the lonely messenger would soon dissolve and mingle with the more temperate waters of those latitudes towards which it was inevitably drifting, and which for wise purposes was no doubt its errand. While nearing the dreaded "Horn," we sighted others sufficiently near—but for the confidence we had in the captain and his ship—to have been objects of anxiety. But we doubled the stormy cape calmly and comfortably, because the winds were asleep.

The monotony was afterwards unrelieved by any worthy incident until fishing in the Gulf Stream commenced, not for fish, but for vegetable wreck, flowing across our path for days, from whence to where seems yet a mystery which navigators have not sounded. Bounding along like a racehorse, spurred on by steam and wind alternately; the latter, when in full play, bending every foot of canvas, throwing the well-trimmed ship forward with a force and speed which made the sense of sailing exhilarating and pleasant.

The region of the Western Isles was passed with marvellous swiftness, which made us think of Queenstown, which we soon made, and were boarded by a pilot, who took us safe round to Liverpool, where the "gallant barque" reported herself from the mouths of her guns in a way which made ears to tingle during the process of landing; after doing which, each took off his different way, some perhaps to meet some other day.

THE POLITICAL RELATION OF THE AUSTRALIAN COLONIES TO THE PARENT STATE.

It is now a maxim of British policy that it is the duty and desire of the government and people of the

United Kingdom to afford countenance and protection to her colonies as long as they manifest a disposition to maintain Imperial connection ; but as soon as any wish of dismemberment may be legally and formally expressed, and legitimately conveyed to the crown, it would interpose no obstacle to the realization of such a desire ; and it is wise that our statesmen have distinctly enunciated this principle of colonial policy. It is well for the colonies also, as it will serve to dissipate the views entertained by some, of their own importance to the integrity of the parent state, which are erroneous and mischievous.

Although it is very far from being a popular phrase, "Let us cut the painter," it is the favourite expression of many unreflecting persons, who, when baffled in some selfish purpose by what they may suppose to be, and call, the arrogance of the home Government, immediately unfurl the "Repeal of the Connection Flag." Their idea is, that the advantages derived from it are not mutual, and that in the event of the policy of England leading it into a war, they would be subject to all the pains and penalties to which hostilities with foreign states would expose them ; without seeming to reflect on the far more probable contingency of predatory assault or absorption by any unscrupulous aggrandizing power, whose lust of territory and extended dominion might prompt it to visit with no polite purpose such fine outlying possessions as the Australian group are, and to lay a robber's hand on such fine prizes as they would be. It would, however, be a great mistake if public opinion were to be influenced or formed on the supposition that any desire for separation in the Australian colonies is common. It is chiefly confined

to parties hailing from states having no political identification with the United Kingdom. The loyalty of the mass of the colonists is, although sometimes exuberant and excitingly demonstrative, not a mere sentiment, but a principle based on an intelligent conviction. The danger rather is, from the fostering of a feeling of regardlessness among the bulk of people at home, concerning the condition and permanent security and stability of the antipodean family, which may, if not judiciously regarded, eventuate in alienation, to a degree which would be mutually deplored. The Press of England generally, perhaps without duly considering all the circumstances of the case, is vexed and irritable when any of the communities with which she is more immediately identified, do not adopt similar commercial principles to those which have proved so singularly sound and advantageous to herself and the commercial world; and rightly or wrongly, although there may be no blatant manifestation of it, this is certainly the popular feeling. But colonial governments do not receive credit for the fact, that with them, as at home, the chief part of the revenue of customs is derived from the duties on luxuries, and a great amount of misconception and ill feeling would have been avoided if import duties, ostensibly imposed for the purpose of fostering colonial manufactures, had been levied for revenue and with that aim. The industrial occupations to be encouraged would have been as effectually so if claims to protection had been less loudly promulgated. But as every family is supposed to know the line which will be most convenient to its own interests, it is desirable that each should be left to the freedom of its own will, and make the best of the conditions which their several rules of conduct produce, and

which can be greatly improved by well-directed efforts to secure the greatest amount of comfort to the greatest number of people on both sides of the globe, which would in some degree serve to strengthen the bonds which have hitherto been attended with so many blessings, and to which may soon be added—

THE IMPORTATION IN GOOD CONDITION OF FLESH MEATS, which would be found to be not the least of the many which have flowed from the colonization of Australia and New Zealand. The very high price which flesh meats have reached, requires the serious consideration of the community generally; the privations to which so many of the operative and labouring classes are becoming increasingly subject, in consequence of the extreme rates at which live stock can only be obtained, should induce them to adopt measures, by mutual co-operation, to extend the area of supply, which would ease the pressure on the markets, by importing "dead meat" from those accessible regions of the world, where establishments for the preservation of the surplus stocks with which these regions abound are in successful operation, and which requires only the encouragement of demand to induce other capitalists to increase the means of supply, until the rates of butcher meat, like every other article of commerce, become more nearly equalized in the various producing and consuming countries, between which commercial relations can be fostered.

The attempts which have hitherto been made to create a demand for foreign cured meat, have not been of a character to effect the object in view. These attempts have been isolated, and conducted under conditions, in many instances, of a very *uninviting* nature. What is

termed "*jerked* beef" failed as a substitute for any of the purposes required. Its shrunken, attenuated condition, excited suspicions of its origin, which, although unfounded, have settled into a prejudice which will not be easily overcome.

The extract of beef wrought on Liebig's principle will, to the extent of its consumption, for the purposes for which fresh home-killed beef is used, ease the market to a limited extent. But what is wanted is beef or mutton, or both, in quarters or sides, prepared for exportation in such a manner as to secure the retention of their substantial, nourishing, and palatable properties, and at prices which would bring them within the reach of the great body of the industrious classes; and thus not only relieve the live stock market, but by reacting on the prime necessities of living, would reduce dairy produce within limits, which at present prices cannot be obtained without embarrassment to multitudes whose muscle, strength, and stamina cannot be suffered to deteriorate, without detriment to our position in the race of manufacturing and commercial enterprize.

The chief difficulty which has heretofore prevented the importation of flesh meat in good condition having been a chemical one, the well-grounded hope which has for some time been entertained that this difficulty would be speedily overcome, is being in a great measure realized. The extent to which capital is being invested in some of the Australian colonies, as well as in South America, affords reasonable and gratifying grounds of belief, that we are on the eve of becoming recipients of solid and nutritious flesh meats, in quantities which, being paid for in kind, will stimulate trade, which, with the reduction in the essential furnishings of com-

mon breakfast and dinner tables, will greatly ameliorate the condition and add to the comforts of that portion of the people, who so much require ease from the distressing pressure which the present "death-rates" of the prime elements of food impose.

To assist in effecting this desirable object, it seems feasible to suggest, that joint stock companies on the principle of limited liability, might be formed throughout the country, in shares of not more than 20*s.* for each, for the purpose of importing flesh meats in the best possible condition, at prices which would insure sales at remunerative rates to the shippers, and afford a reasonable rate of commission to the companies as agents.

To provide against risk or loss, the companies would not, at least until well and safely advised, occupy the position of purchasers or retailers, but merely that of commission agents, attracting business by the confidence which the numbers and influence of the shareholders, and the economical management of their business, would inspire; offering, as they would, a guarantee for the honourable and prompt discharge of all the obligations under which their transactions might place them.

As the chief object contemplated by the formation of such companies, would be to reduce the price of flesh meat, and to impose a check on the speculative and fluctuating rates of the live stock markets; the companies would require to limit their profits to, say, five per cent. per annum, and not under any circumstances to occupy the position of traders striving to obtain returns incompatible with the main object for which they would have been established; which would be to dispose of consignments on the most economical conditions, in the interests of the shippers, and thus by mutual encouragement

extend the area of operations, and render more effectual the boon to the public which it would be the main object of the proprietors to insure. Although a fair rate of interest would accrue to the shareholders, it may reasonably be assumed that such undertakings, in their main features, would be of a benevolent character, inasmuch as their success would be a public benefit; and in this view of the matter, ministers of the gospel, magistrates, councillors, and others, not necessarily in their associated or incorporated capacities, but as gentlemen well known, and occupying responsible positions in society, would, with the chiefs of manufacturing and commercial towns, render good service to the people by becoming shareholders, thus giving a phase of stability and security, which would popularize the undertakings, and commend them to the countenance and co-operation of the people generally.

Master butchers would find it advantageous to identify themselves with a movement of this kind, which would not be directed against them as a class; for although they would stand in no closer relation to it than other wholesale purchasers, their experience would be of great service in promoting the public weal; especially seeing that high and fluctuating live stock markets are as detrimental to them, in the degree, as famine prices are to the most lowly and needy members of the community.

Verbum sap.

APPENDICES.

NOTE.—page 130.

SINCE the first edition of this book was published, the following interesting article has appeared in the *London Spectator*, on

AUSTRALIAN SKIES.

“More than a year ago a discovery was announced by an astronomer in the Southern hemisphere which seemed so strange and so perplexing, that Sir John Herschel, commenting on it, remarked ‘that no phenomenon in astronomy had yet turned up presenting anything like the same interest, or calculated to raise so many and such momentous points for inquiry and speculation.’ One of those mysterious nebulous masses which astronomers had been in the habit of regarding as galaxies, resembling in extent and magnificence the sidereal scheme to which the sun belongs, seemed to be undergoing an astounding series of changes. During these winter nights, when Orion shines with full glory, the famous nebula which clings around his pendant sword presents to our northern observers an object similar to the nebula in question. *Every one has heard of the strange interest which attaches to this Orion nebula, of the mysterious far-reaching arms which extend from it, the dark central vacancy, and the brilliant array of stars which the six-feet mirror of Lord Rosse has brought into view in the very heart of the nebula.* But in the Southern skies there is an object of the same class even more glorious and more mysterious. In the richest part of the Southern heavens, a part so rich indeed that, according to the argument of a well-known astronomer, the splendour of the constellations comprised in it illuminates the heavens as a new moon would, there lies the great nebula known among astronomers as ‘the Nebula in Arago.’ The Orion nebula can only be seen on the darkest nights, but the great Arago nebula shines as brilliantly as a third-magnitude star, and is scarcely obliterated even by the effulgence of the full moon. It is, in fact, the most splendid nebula

in the whole heavens. Yet this glorious object, whose contemplation has led our most thoughtful astronomers to form new ideas of the grandeur of the universe, *whose dimensions seemed immeasurable by any unit of length men could devise, the whole* of this magnificent nebula is drifting about like a cloud before a shifting wind."

The reproduction of the article here may serve as an apology for, if not a justification of, the language which the author has put into the mouth of one of the leading characters in this little "Aikenhead" episode.

NOTE.—page 325.

Kangaroos eat the sweetest of the young grass, and it is understood that one eats as much as a sheep. In the runs removed from the more populated districts, their numbers increase so much, that they are equal to, and sometimes more than the flocks; so that these estates could carry double the number of sheep if the kangaroos could be extirpated or kept down. Towards this object it is usual, when a squatter is more than ordinarily afflicted with the pests, his neighbours, on the same principle as a day's ploughing is given to a farmer by sympathizing friends, give him a day's "battueing," at which two or three thousand are often slaughtered. But a "battue" is different from a hunt, which, as set forth in the text, is engaged in as sport; and if sport consists in healthful and exciting exercise—well bred kangaroo dogs singling out a full-grown "buck" from a herd, followed by a field of eager and daring horsemen—it is sport. The dogs in the case under notice must have been well bred, as although the "old man" they were after tried to take shelter by getting into another mob, they were not diverted from their object by this stratagem, but kept hard at him, with the horsemen well up; and when the poor, dumb, hunted animal found himself in extreme peril, with the energy of despair, spurning the ground with his hard muscular tail and powerful haunches, he bounded over the tall fern in parabolic paces, which would have matched the greatest stride of a "Derby winner."



